

CONTACT:

Rina Thaler

Art League of Ocean City

Ocean City Center for the Arts

410-524-9433

rthaler@artleagueofoceancity.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**DECEMBER'S FIRST FRIDAY FEATURES FREE ART OPENINGS AND
ARTISAN FAIR AT OCEAN CITY CENTER FOR THE ARTS**

OCEAN CITY, MD — *Dec. 2, 2024* — First Friday, Dec. 6, 2024, celebrates the holidays at the Ocean City Center for the Arts with two group shows, a small works exhibit, plus an artisan fair. The First Friday event is free and runs from 5-7 p.m., and all are welcome.

The Arts Center, home of the Art League of Ocean City, is located at 502 94th St. bayside. Ocean's 13 is sponsoring the complimentary refreshments, and PKS Investments is sponsoring the beverages.

The Thaler Gallery at the Arts Center features the Annual Members Juried Group Show featuring artwork in all media by members of the Art League. Raye-Valion Gillette, curator and folklife specialist at the Museum of Eastern Shore Culture at Salisbury University, will jury the exhibition and select the winners, who will be awarded cash prizes.

The Sisson Galleria features the Best of 2024, artwork that won awards during Arts Center exhibits of the past year. Studio E features Small Works, small in size and affordable in price for holiday giving.

The annual Artisan Fair fills the Arts Center for two days with handcrafted items made by local and regional artists. The artists will display their creations during the First Friday art opening from 5-7 p.m. and also on Saturday from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Items offered include one-of-a-kind jewelry, ceramics, fiber art, and more. The participating artisans include Theresa Alo, Charlene Willner, Lisa Chambers, Etta Stewart, Sue Bromm, Alicia Rappold, Kathryn Luciana, Traci Jones, Penny Amici, Iuliia Nahirna, Svetlana McCoy-Rusanova, Joel Trotta, Lisa Scarbath, Lisa Guerriero, Sarah Halcott, Debbi Dean, Robert Johnson, and Sarah Halcott.

On Saturday from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., the fair continues with the artisans, plus a bake sale, a community weaving project, and children's activities. Authors who will be on hand to sign their books include Robert Fleming, Bernie Siler, Frank Hopkins, and Aileen Price.

Debbi Dean and her daughters, Damiana Colley and Kaya Dean, all of Berlin, Md., exhibit their artwork in the Schwab Spotlight Gallery in December.

Entitled "Threads of Connection: A Mother-Daughter Tapestry," this art show invites the viewer to explore the intertwined stories of mothers and daughters, reflecting on the delicate strands of life woven through shared experiences, emotions, and nature. Each piece serves as a visual diary, capturing journeys, fears, and loves.

Bilbo Yanuk of Ocean City, Md. is the Art Center's artisan for December. Yanuk is interested in all forms of creative endeavors, and is active as a tennis teacher, musician, craftsman, and artist. He has augmented his career with stints at Baltimore Junior College and the Maryland Institute of Art, a budding and ever-changing sojourn into a world of artistic satisfaction.

The Burbage Staircase Gallery at the Arts Center continues a show by Elizabeth Grey.

The art exhibits continue at two Art League satellite galleries in North Ocean City. The main lobby at the Princess Royale Oceanfront, 9110 Coastal Hwy. continues an exhibit by Lisa Guerriero. A second satellite gallery on 94th St. at the Coffee Beanery continues a show of artwork by Theresa Alo.

All shows will be on display until Dec. 28. More information is available at www.OCart.org or by calling 410-524-9433.

The Art League of Ocean City is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing the visual arts to the community through education, exhibits, scholarship, programs and community art projects. Funding for this event is in part provided by the Worcester County Arts Council, Maryland State Arts Council and the National Endowment of the Arts, organizations dedicated to cultivating a vibrant cultural community where the arts thrive.

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EDITORS: Photo attached of exhibiting artists. Damiana Colley and Debbi Dean.

Elaine Bean
Art League of Ocean City
Marketing & Publicity Director
elaine@artleagueofoceancity.org
443-944-3398 mobile



