

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**June's First Friday opens new shows at the Ocean City Center for the Arts
with special kick-off for Clay-a-Palooza month**

OCEAN CITY, MD — May 30, 2025 — The Art League of Ocean City invites the public to attend the opening night party of new art shows on First Friday, June 6, 5-7 p.m., at the Ocean City Center for the Arts, 94th St. bayside. Admission is free with complimentary beverages and hors d'oeuvres.

During First Friday, the Art League will also announce its 2025 scholarship winners, continuing its support of local students who are seeking a higher education in the arts. Since the Art League first began granting scholarships in 1991, the nonprofit has awarded 100 scholarships to date, including this year's winners.

The Thaler Gallery hosts an exhibition of mixed media artwork by Michel Demanche, retired Professor of Art at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore in Princess Anne, Md., entitled "The Yellow King ... Residuum." This exhibition presents residuum of hope or delusion through acknowledgement of the many layers of meaning presented in *The Yellow King* and *The Yellow King 2.0*. "What we live in at present, another new reality," Demanche said. "Residuum is something that remains after a reaction or process has taken place, normally a substance remaining after a physical or chemical reaction. Delusion is a false opinion about a matter of fact which need not necessarily involve, though it often does involve, false perceptions of sensible things."

A group show entitled "Game On" fills the walls of the Sisson Galleria in June. The all-media group show includes artwork inspired by games, sports, hobbies, and amusements. Also on display are the winners of the United Way's annual Lower Shore Addiction Awareness Visual Arts Competition.

The annual Clay-a-Palooza event includes a takeover of the Arts Center on First Friday, including Studio E, the Spotlight Gallery, and the Artisan Showcase, displaying fun and functional ceramics created by the Clay Guild of the Eastern Shore. Founded in 2005, the Clay Guild serves the southern part of the Eastern Shore with members in Maryland, Delaware, and Virginia. Work shown includes hand-crafted, one-of-a-kind ceramics made by local potters including Robbie Johnson, Imogene Halcott, Sarah Halcott, Patricia Rose and others.

During First Friday, attendees can explore the Clay Guild marketplace and sculpture garden all evening. Special events include Pottery Ping Pong from 5-7 p.m. where guests toss a ping pong ball into a piece of pottery and get to take the piece home if they land the shot.

The Ocean Pottery Throwdown will be from 5-6 p.m. where guests can compete or watch as participants – some blindfolded - throw tea bowls and pitchers. The Pottery Speed Trials will be from 5:30-6:30 p.m. where guests can try the potter's wheel for two minutes.

The Staircase Gallery at the Arts Center continues a show by artist Abi Lightner.

PKS Investments is sponsoring the beverages, and the Hilton Garden Inn is providing desserts for June's First Friday.

The Princess Royale satellite gallery, 9100 Coastal Hwy., continues to host the artwork of Angela Vinson. The Coffee Beanery satellite gallery at 94th St. and Coastal Hwy. continues to display the artwork of Patricia Farley.

The Art League of Ocean City is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting artistic expression and appreciation for the creative arts in our community through education, exhibits, scholarship, programs, and community art projects. Funding is provided in part 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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