

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Art League of Ocean City invites public to free
“Second Friday” art reception on July 11**

OCEAN CITY, MD — July 7, 2025 — The Art League of Ocean City announces their monthly art opening reception will be held on “Second Friday,” July 11, 2025. The public is invited to the free event from 5-7 p.m. at the Ocean City Center for the Arts, 502 94th St. bayside.

Opening in the Thaler Gallery is new work by artist Petra Bernstein in a show entitled, “*The Space In Between*.” Born and raised in the German countryside, Bernstein learned to appreciate nature at an early age. Her artwork ranges from paintings of flora and fauna to abstract interpretations of nature’s mystery. The Maryland-based artist captures intriguing reflections, patterns, colors, and textures. “Art has become a beautiful journey, and I can no longer imagine my life without it,” she said.

The annual Beverly Bassford Juried Art Show will be exhibited in the Sisson Galleria in an extended run through Aug. 15. After Bassford’s death in 1999, her family honored her love of art by establishing a prize in her name that grew into the annual show, with continued sponsorship by the family. Christy Cox of [Salisbury University Art Galleries](#) will juror the show, selecting winners for the cash prizes sponsored in part by the Bassford family, the Worcester Co. Arts Council, and the Maryland State Arts Council.

The Schwab Spotlight Gallery is shining a spotlight on artwork created by Art League staff and members of its Board of Directors, titled “*Faces of the Arts*.” Executive Director Rina Thaler, said, “Our staff and board members are passionate about the arts and devote their time and energy to serving the mission of the Art League. We are excited about this exhibit that will showcase the talents of these people who make the arts accessible to all in Ocean City and beyond.”

Jonathan Nordstrom occupies Studio E during July. Nordstrom often paints his dreams in acrylic on canvas with an emphasis on pointillism as a technique, adding a feeling of movement to his finished pieces. “When I look at a great piece of art, what usually holds me in place is when I can find something new in every square inch, and that is what I try and convey in my paintings,” he said.

The artisan for July is jeweler Dee Dobson of Ocean City who uses traditional gold and silversmithing methods to create her one-of-a-kind pieces. Her metals of choice are sterling and fine silver, varying carats of gold, and copper. Dobson cuts her own semi-precious stones and adds them in colors chosen to represent the Southwestern deserts and the display of light on the oceans.

Aria Islam of Ocean City, Md. is the new artist in the Burbage Staircase Gallery, showing through December. A graduate of Worcester Prep, she a rising artist who has previously exhibited in the Art League’s Shirley Hall Youth Art Exhibits.

New shows are also opening in July at the Art League’s satellite galleries. The Princess Royale, 9100 Coastal Hwy., is featuring the artwork of Jessica Schlegel in their main lobby. A watercolor artist who

delves into the world around her, Schlegel grew up on the Eastern Shore, falling in love with the array of landscapes and wildlife, and often paints plein air.

Sally Miller is the featured artist at the Coffee Beanery, at the corner of 94th St. and Coastal Hwy. Miller is a Baltimore-based artist whose primary work is training resident spiritual care practitioners at The Johns Hopkins Academic Medical Center. Her artwork is inspired by people she meets in the hospital and two losses in her own life.

Montgomery Financial Services is sponsoring complimentary beverages at the event, and the Art League will provide complimentary hors d'oeuvres.

More information about the exhibits can be found at OCart.org, on the Art League's app, or by calling 410-524-9433.

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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