

**Free First Friday opening reception on Sept. 5
at Ocean City Center for the Arts
celebrates Eastern Shore heritage**

OCEAN CITY, MD — July 29, 2025 — The Art League of Ocean City invites the public to a free opening reception on First Friday, Sept. 5, 2025, 5-7 p.m., at the Ocean City Center for the Arts, 94th St. bayside. Admission is free, and all are welcome.

The Thaler Gallery hosts a special group show entitled “Roots & Remembrance” celebrating in art the culture and heritage of the Eastern Shore. The show is sponsored in part by a grant from the Beach to Bay Heritage Area. Artists were invited to submit work in all media that celebrates Delmarva’s unique way of life and landscape.

Special activities on First Friday include a demonstration of Eastern Shore lure and fly-tying by Greg Cwalina. September is also the Art League’s annual block party with hors d’oeuvres provided by Little Salisbury neighbors Lombardi’s Pizza and Blue Fish Restaurant. The block party includes live entertainment and fun activities for the kids.

In the Sisson Galleria, paintings created during the “Artists Paint OC Festival” continue their exhibit, featuring the best of the plein air painting competition. Many award-winning paintings are on display and available for purchase.

Studio E features artwork by mother and daughter Elaine and Rosie Bean. Elaine Bean presents “Paper Thin,” paper sculptures of a diversity of faces cast from handmade paper and embellished with natural objects. Rosie Bean’s “Southern Exposure” explores Southern moments in history through layered photographic images of iconic scenes.

The Schwab Spotlight hosts the paintings of Jim Rehak in September. Influenced by the Impressionists and artists of that tradition, Rehak paints mostly outdoors, directly from nature, capturing landscapes observed in natural light. He participates in paint-outs and plein air competitions and recently won an award in the 2025 “Artists Paint OC Festival.”

The Felber Artisan Showcase shows the creative mosaics of Lisa Scarbath. A resident artist at the Howard County Center for the Arts in Ellicott City and an instructor at the Ocean City Center for the Arts, she pivoted from previous careers as a lawyer and professor to become a full-time creative. Scarbath creates mixed-media mosaic wall art, decor, furniture, custom pieces, and public art projects.

Complimentary beverages for the First Friday reception are sponsored by Montgomery Financial.

The artwork of Aria Islam continues showing in the Burbage Staircase Gallery at the Arts Center. In the Art League’s satellite galleries, Sally Miller exhibits her work at the Coffee Beanery on 94th St. and Coastal Hwy. Jessica Schlegel shows her artwork in the Princess Royale lobby, 9100 Coastal Hwy.

Exhibits at the Arts Center and satellite galleries run through Sept. 27. More information is available at OCart.org or by calling 410-524-9433.

The Art League of Ocean City is a non-profit organization dedicated to 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.