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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THE ART LEAGUE CITY OPENS NEW EXHIBITS DURING FREE FIRST FRIDAY,
KICKSTARTING CLAY-A-PALOOZA MONTH**

OCEAN CITY, MD — May 19, 2026 — The Art League of Ocean City invites the public to its June First Friday art openings on Friday, June 5, from 5–8 p.m., at the Ocean City Center for the Arts, 94th Street bayside. The public is invited to attend this free event with refreshments sponsored by The Buzzed Word and complimentary hors d’oeuvres. Live music by artist, singer, and songwriter Callum.

During First Friday, the Art League will also announce its 2026 scholarship winners, continuing its support of local students seeking higher education in the arts. Since the Art League first began granting scholarships in 1991, the nonprofit has awarded over 100 scholarships to date.

“What Gathers” is the new exhibition by Matthew Meinhardt, on view June 5–27 in the Thaler Gallery at the Art League of Ocean City. The Ocean City native, now based in Los Angeles, continues his exploration of perception, reality, and media, inviting viewers to consider how visuals and narratives shape truth. The paintings merge recognizable entertainment motifs and insect-like silhouettes against atmospheric backdrops, pairing aerial forms with portraits of “witnesses” whose bewildered gazes drive a pseudo-narrative about truth.

The Sisson Gallery hosts "Ride, Glide, Cast: A Coastal State of Mind," a mixed-media show featuring the watersports of surfing and fishing, with the street sport of skating to explore the unique rhythm of coastal life on the Eastern Shore. Artists are invited to draw inspiration from surfing—the curl of a wave, the board slicing through salt and spray; skating—the grind of concrete, the curve of movement, urban waves of motion; fishing—the patient cast, the landing, the line between human and sea.

The annual Clay-A-Palooza event will take over the remainder 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 handcrafted, one-of-a-kind ceramics made by local potters, including Robbie Johnson, Sarah Halcott, Patricia Rose, and others.

During First Friday, attendees can explore the Clay Guild marketplace and sculpture garden all evening. Special events include demonstrations and artists' talks, as well as Pottery Ping Pong, where guests toss a ping pong ball into a piece of pottery and take the piece home if they land the shot. Visitors will also have a quick try at the wheel.

The Global Travel Photo Show's past entries will be displayed on gallery monitors, offering a rotating glimpse of travel-inspired imagery from years past. If you would like to enter your photo into this year's contest, visit <https://www.gogophotocontest.com/globaltravelphotocontestaloc>. Voting ends June 22, 2026, at 11:59:59 PM (midnight).

Satellite galleries: The Princess Royale, 9100 Coastal Highway, hosts Jim Halvorsen with Ocean City Yacht Shots, while The Coffee Beanery at 94th Street showcases Carly Whittington, a plaster artist and photographer based in Berlin, Maryland.

The Arts Center shows, and the satellite galleries will be on display through June 29. 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 bringing the visual arts to the community through education, exhibits, scholarship, programs, and community art projects.