

# ART MATTERS

THE ART LEAGUE OF OCEAN CITY  
CENTER FOR THE ARTS

MARCH & APRIL 2016

## Artist Q and A

March featured photographer Selena Mallot



**Q:** How did you start making art?

**A:** I knew I wanted to be an artist at a very young age...If I had just one crayon, I could draw an entire scene and make up for the lack in color scheme by introducing texture and shading to differentiate depth/perspective. There was no stopping me after that.

**Q:** What is your medium and why/how do you work in it?

**A:** I'm a graphic designer by trade, and although I love it dearly, I find that I'm "in love" with photography. There is something so personal about it, some

subjects more than others, but in the end, it all allows the viewer a chance to discover a moment in time that would otherwise go unnoticed. Being a designer has molded me into the photographer I've become. Composition first! Always. Then light, color, texture and ultimately that moment of clarity.

**Q:** What themes do you explore in your art?

**A:** I try to challenge myself each month. Forcing myself to shoot subjects and situations that wouldn't typically interest me. It's a great exercise, and the results usually surprise me. If I had to pick my top three subjects, it would be macro/florals, candid/street photography and portraits of all ages.

**Q:** Who or what has inspired your art?

**A:** The works of Andrew Wyeth have always left me wanting more - the neutral palettes, intimacy, light and shadow play, the way his paintings portray movement and utter stillness at the same time.

Georgia O'Keeffe! I love her ability to paint a flower as if it were dancing/temping you to draw closer...Her genius in finding the absolute sex appeal of her subjects in the most abstract yet calculated way.

I've never seen a Henri Cartier Bresson photograph I didn't love...Each one telling a story; by way of light falling just so, compositions one only dreams of, the candidness, intimacy and humanity. It's what every photographer strives for in a single capture. It's why we keep shooting!

**Q:** What's the best advice you can give to another artist?

**A:** Laugh as much as you breathe. Love as long as you live.

**Q:** Why does art matter to you?

**A:** Art is a form of meditation, a connection, a release. Art is where I feed my soul and find inner peace.



TO BENEFIT DIAKONIA & THE ART LEAGUE

**Soup's on! Soup Dinner**  
**Saturday, March 19, 5 - 8 p.m.**  
**\$20 for soup & handmade bowl**

The 3rd annual Empty Bowl Project is a unique opportunity to fight hunger locally. Sponsored by First Shore Federal Bank, the project benefits the Diakonia food pantry and the programs of the Art League of Ocean City. Local restaurants donate the soup, and volunteers ladle it out to diners. There's also a Chinese auction, live music and a cash bar.

Come on out and warm up your body and soul! Drop in; reservations not required. All are welcome.



**Express yourself and have fun! Take an art class**

The Arts Center offers art classes for all ages and skill levels. We have classes in painting, glass, pottery, jewelry, fiber, drawing and more. Classes are designed for adults, families and children of all ages, and for beginners, intermediates and experienced artists. We offer day, evening and weekend classes. Become a member and save on tuition!

[\*\*CLICK HERE TO GO TO A FULL SCHEDULE OF ART CLASSES AT THE ARTS CENTER\*\*](#)



*A message from our  
Board President*

**MARIAN  
BICKERSTAFF**

As in past years, I am gratified at the winter attendance at our monthly exhibit openings and class offerings. It is wonderful to be able to provide a creative outlet during the off-season, and we look forward to welcoming back our snowbird friends!

Thanks to all who made a bowl for the Empty Bowl Soup Dinner on March 19. Hopefully many of you, bowl makers and supporters, will come to the event and buy a handmade bowl with delicious soup donated by area restaurants. Once again, proceeds from the event will be shared with Diakonia to help them care for the homeless.

The Art League is kicking off its 2016 membership drive, and we will enter all names of new and renewing memberships into a drawing for an original sumi-style painting by Baltimore artist, Joan Lok. The drawing for the painting will be held on May 15<sup>th</sup>. Remember, you don't have to be an artist to join the Art League! Membership is a great opportunity for you to support the arts and show that you believe *ART MATTERS!*

Annually in April, we recognize our Corporate Partners listed in this newsletter. We are grateful for their support in so many ways – whether monetary or in-kind gifts - and hope that you will patronize their businesses to show your support.



*A message from our  
Executive Director*

**RINA THALER**

March blows in a whirlwind of programs to our Arts Center. We kick off the month by paying tribute to women in the arts with our “She Speaks” exhibit and celebrating area youth with the Shirley Hall youth art contest at our First Friday on March 5.

The weekend of March 11-14 is devoted to the performing arts as we welcome back Brown Box Theatre Project for “Boxer Shorts 2,” an evening of short plays. Our third annual “Empty Bowl Project” culminates with a massive soup dinner on March 19, as we partner with Diakonia to raise funds for hunger, homelessness and art.

April will also be abuzz with activity as we present our annual juried show in honor of our corporate partners. Our inaugural anime art contest by Worcester County High School students will also be on display at the Arts Center April 1-4 before moving to the Gold Coast Mall through April 30.

Our class schedule is packed with opportunities to explore a variety of mediums. Be sure to stop by; we are open daily. Come see the exhibits, take a class, visit our artist studios, and bring home a piece of art with you.

I look forward to welcoming you here this Spring,



**Thank you to The Women's Fund  
for sponsoring “She Speaks” and  
empowering women artists**

According to the International Foundation for Women Artists, female artists earn just 75% of what male artists earn for the same work. Also, the National Museum for the Arts reports only 5% of the art currently on display in museums in the U.S. is made by women artists.

The “She Speaks” project, which coordinates with International Women’s Day on March 8, seeks to empower female artists, validate their expressions, explore their creative possibilities and raise awareness for the issues they face. The project includes women and girls from Worcester, Wicomico and Somerset Counties, Maryland, and Sussex County, Delaware.

In addition to the entire Arts Center being devoted to art by women in March, another event during the month will continue the theme.

**JOURNAL MAKING**, instructed by **Debbi Dean-Colley on Sunday, March 20 from noon - 2 p.m.** will let attendees use mixed media materials to create a personal journal and also discuss what journaling can mean for the spirit and soul.

**Board of Directors 2016**

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EXHIBITIONS AT THE ARTS CENTER

March

OPENS FIRST FRIDAY,  
MARCH 4, 5-7 P.M.

IN THE THALER GALLERY:  
SHE SPEAKS



“Untranslatable”  
by Yuanyuan Liu



“Lightscape”  
by Selena Malott

April

OPENS FIRST FRIDAY,  
APRIL 1, 5-7 P.M.

IN THE GALLERIA:  
MARYLAND PASTEL SOCIETY



“Before the Race”  
by Dennis Young



“Shadow Play”  
by Joyce Lister

IN THE GALLERIA: SHE SPEAKS  
All media juried show by female artists

IN THE THALER GALLERY: CORPORATE  
PARTNER SHOW All media juried show



STUDIO E  
Diane  
Hurwitz-Specht



STUDIO E  
Tuve Tuvevesson



SPOTLIGHT GALLERY  
Kathie Gallion



ARTISAN SHOWCASE  
Joyce Guerrieri



SPOTLIGHT GALLERY  
Brad Hudson



ARTISAN SHOWCASE  
Patti Backer

SHIRLEY HALL MEMORIAL YOUTH SHOW  
March 4-6 Middle & high school artists

ANIME YOUTH ART SHOW  
April 1-3 Worcester County High School students

# Happenings at the Arts Center



Staff member Debbi Dean-Colley instructs a mural painting project at Berlin Intermediate School. Shown here painting is student Darby Robe.



Paul Treadway won First Place for his painting of an egret in the Eastern Shore Wildlife Show in February.



Painter Marcus Pettit displayed his work in Studio E in February.



Pottery instructor Nancy Barnas takes a selfie with Anna and Madelyn Weist of the Most Blessed Sacrament School during a Kids' Pottery class.



Painter Toni Wolf interpreted a poem in January's Shared Visions show.

# Coming up at the Arts Center



## BOXER SHORTS ~ A CYCLE OF SHORT PLAYS

Directed by Kyler Taustin and Talia Curtin  
Showtimes 7:30 p.m. — Doors open 6:30 p.m.

**MARCH 11 — 14, 2016**

[CLICK HERE FOR TICKETS](#)

project **BROWN**  
THEATRE **BOX**

## Upcoming exhibition opportunities for artists

[CLICK HERE TO SEE A FULL SCHEDULE AND ENTRY REQUIREMENTS AND FEES](#)

INTAKE: SUNDAYS 2-4 PM, MONDAYS 10-12

### DUE MARCH 27-28:

2D and 3D work in all media for Corporate Partner Show - juried

### DUE MAY 1-2:

"Food for the Soul" food themed art, 2D only

### DUE MAY 29-30:

Photography and digital media

### DUE JUNE 26-27:

2D and 3D work in all media for Beverly Bassford Memorial Show — juried

### PAINT PLEIN AIR:

Event begins August 11, Wet Paint Sale on August 13. Registration is open NOW.

### DUE AUGUST 28-29:

Artist's Choice — 2D and 3D work, all media

### DUE OCTOBER 2-3:

Abstract Show in 2D and 3D — all media

### DUE OCTOBER 30-31

Members Only Show in 2D and 3D — all media (limit one entry per artist)



## PERSONALIZED COURTYARD PAVERS

Leave your lasting mark on the arts in Ocean City! Custom made with your own personal message.

4x8 inch pavers—\$100

8x8 inch pavers—\$150

Reserve yours today by calling the Arts Center at **410-524-9433**

## The Art League Endowment Fund is a smart way to support the arts

The Art League of Ocean City has established an endowment fund at the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore as part of the long-term planning efforts of the Board of Directors of the Art League.

The first person to donate to the fund was Lyn Burr. A former longtime Art League board member, Lyn recognized the endowment fund is critical to impact the future of the Art League.

"I have made this donation so that we know the Art League will continue into the future, long after we are all gone," she said.

Thank you, Lyn! To donate to the Art League Endowment Fund, call Executive Director Rina Thaler at **410-524-9433**.

## Who's Who AT THE ART LEAGUE

### Board member Joe Mitrecic is also a Worcester County Commissioner



Joe Mitrecic, local contractor and Worcester County Commissioner, joined the Art League's Board in January 2016. A friend of long-time Art League supporters Mayor Rick Meehan and Katy Durham, Mitrecic has great admiration for the non-profit organization and Arts Center.

"The Art League is the crown jewel of Ocean City," Mitrecic said. "The Ocean City Center for

the Arts is a place for everybody to go – locals as well as out-of-towners."

He sees the First Friday receptions as a showcase for the area's many talented artists.

Before Mitrecic became a permanent resident of Ocean City 34 years ago, he came to the ocean every summer from Baltimore. He and his brother took over the construction company, Robert Mitrecic Building Contractor, Inc., after his father passed away.

Mitrecic served on the City Council of Ocean City as both a member and president, then was elected a Worcester County Commissioner in 2014. He represents the Commission as Treasurer for the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland.

Some of the projects Mitrecic supports are a new sports complex for the area, a dissolution of the County Liquor Board, and video-taping of the Commission's meetings.

Mitrecic enjoys golfing, boating and fishing. He and his wife, Sheryl, have a son, Jacob, who works in the family business, and a daughter, Madison, who attends Salisbury University's Nursing Program.

*Getting married? Having a milestone birthday?  
Company party or meeting coming up?*

### HAVE YOUR NEXT EVENT AT THE OCEAN CITY CENTER FOR THE ARTS

If you're looking for a space for a party, meeting or wedding reception, the Ocean City Center for the Arts is a beautiful and unique venue. Located on 94th St. on Ocean City's back bay with an incredible water view and outstanding sunsets, the Arts Center has multi-purpose meeting rooms available for group rentals at reasonable rates. The outside courtyard and entire gallery are also ideal for larger functions.

For more information or to take a tour, please call the Arts Center at 410-524-9433.

## Volunteer SPOTLIGHT



### Artist Kathy Gibson enjoys volunteering for the annual Plein Air event in OC

For more than five years, Kathy Gibson has participated as an artist in The Art League of Ocean City's Plein Air: Paint OC!

Unable to participate as an artist last year, Gibson was eager to stay involved within the event as a working volunteer on the committee. She took on the task of advertising and distributing rack cards and posters in the Ocean City area.

Gibson's passion for spreading the word for this event is driven by her desire to see how the public responds to artists working right in front of them, especially those who aren't normally exposed to plein air painting.

Gibson stresses that participation within the event does not mean you have to be an artist. Participating can be as small as making a dessert for the Artist's Dinner or opening your home to a traveling artist. As a volunteer who last year opened her home to a traveling artist, Kathy described the experience as fun, fascinating and a unique way to see what an artist's life is like and better understand the world of an artist.

Thank you for everything you do, Kathy!

### WANT TO GET CLOSER TO ART? VOLUNTEER FOR THE PLEIN AIR EVENT BECAUSE WE NEED YOU!

Volunteering for The Art League's Plein Air: Paint OC! event can be as simple as making desserts for the artists' reception or disseminating rack cards and posters or checking in artists or opening your home to a traveling artist.

In addition to the Plein Air event, there are many other opportunities for volunteering for the Art League, from staffing the front desk at the Arts Center to helping with our summer children's camp to handing out refreshments at our openings.

We value and appreciate all of our volunteers, as they are all crucial to the function of our organization. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Mallory:

**Mallory@artleagueofocancity.org or call 410-524-9433.**

# Are you a member of the Art League?

## You don't have to be an artist. And you could win this painting

The Art League of Ocean City is kicking off its membership drive with the message: "You don't have to be an artist to join the Art League." The drive also includes a special raffle that will run through May 15.

The non-profit Art League will automatically enter all new or renewing members into a drawing that will be held at the Ocean City Center for the Arts on Sunday, May 15. The prize is an original signed painting by Baltimore artist Joan Lok, titled "Happily Ever After," created in the traditional sumi style of watercolor and ink on rice paper and professionally framed.

"We want everyone in the community to know that you don't have to be an artist to join the Art League. You just have to love the arts," said President Marian Bickerstaff. "This is a chance to show your support for the arts and the difference it makes to our community."

"Art matters," said Rina Thaler, Executive Director of the Art League. "Engaging in the arts benefits people of all ages and backgrounds. We are working hard to build a local community of artists and art appreciators. It is vital for us to have the community's support, which they can show by becoming a member."

The Art League's mission is to promote the visual arts in the Ocean City area through education, exhibits, scholarships, classes, programs and community art events. The Arts Center and the Art League are supported by memberships, corporate and civic funding, donations and sales of art.

Members receive a discount on all purchases made at the Arts Center, including original art, pieces from the gift shop, and class fees. Members are also notified personally of special events, including the monthly First Friday opening receptions, and other opportunities, including theater performances, music and classes.

The Art League offers tax-deductible memberships in several levels for individuals, students, seniors and families, starting at \$25 per year. Corporate memberships are also available. Complete pricing and details are on the Art League's website at:

**[artleagueofoceancity.org](http://artleagueofoceancity.org) > membership,**  
**by calling the Arts Center at 410-524-9433, or**  
**by stopping by the Arts Center at 502 94<sup>th</sup> St.**



### THANK YOU TO NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS FOR JAN & FEB 2016

Deborah Adler	Debra Haberstroh	Rita Poore
Cathy Angus	Barbara Hager	William Pratt
Bebe Antonini	Kelly Haines	Clark Prichard
Kenneth Arni	Dale Hall	Douglas Rayfield
Lynnette Babb	George Hamaty	Sally Reed
Bonnie Baker	Mary Kate Hamlin	Mary Ellen Reilly
Nancy Barrett	Patricia Hanlon	Margaret Reitz
Harriet Batis	Betsy Hall Harrison	Nancy Rider
Elaine Bean	John Hecker	Lisa Rinnier
Spicer Bell	Em Hench	Patricia Riordan
Deborah Benito	Angela Herbert-Hodges	Joan Roache
Judy Benton	Edwina Hinkle	Brian Robertson
Marian Bickerstaff	Jill Hoshal	Missi Robertson
Judith Bittorf	Frederick Hough	Dana Rosenfeld
Patricia Black	Kathy Huegel	Lisi Ruczynski
Joan Borkman	Johanna Hurd	Kathy Rutkowski
Marina Borovok	Daphne Hurley	Karen Sanzone
Diana Brooks	Cindy Isenock	Fran Saunders
Lyn Burr	Donna Johnson	Sally Scarangella
Carolyn Buschmeier	Jennifer Justice	Barbara Schmid
Carlos Caceres	Cary Kamarat	Pam Schott
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Thelma Folkey	Bonnie Mitrecic	Kay Warren-Biondi
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Larry Fry	Leland Otto	Marian Wig
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**[TO BECOME AN ART LEAGUE MEMBER](#)**

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Open Mon-Fri 9 am-4 pm, Sat-Sun 11 am-4 pm

