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ALTOONA MUSEUM TO SHOWCASE WORK OF INDIANA COUNTY ARTIST

Altoona – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Altoona is pleased to announce the opening of its latest exhibition, *Julie Bernstein Engelmann: Being Spirit*. The exhibition, which features approximately thirty-five works by the regional artist, opens January 18 and will remain on view through April 20.

Being Spirit is a retrospective that highlights Engelmann’s brilliantly colored abstract canvases. The artist’s dramatic paintings are renowned for their lush color and texture and have won many Best of Show awards throughout western Pennsylvania, including the *Southwestern Pennsylvania Council on the Arts 14th Annual Regional Juried Art Exhibition*. Engelmann, a resident of Indiana, Pennsylvania, received her M.F.A. in art from the University of California, Los Angeles, and her B.A. from Barnard College in New York City, where she studied with first-generation abstract expressionist Milton Resnick. She is a rostered artist with ArtsPath and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and has served three terms as president of the Indiana Art Association. Engelmann’s work is included in many collections, including the Greater Latrobe School District’s Special Collection.

“Julie Bernstein Engelmann combines passages of poured and brushed paint that remind one of stained glass creations,” said SAMA-Altoona Coordinator Barbara Hollander. “Her technique relies partly on many years of study and partly on an intuitive, creative interaction with what she refers to as ‘the painting spirit.’ The resulting works are spiritually resonant and ineffably uplifting.”

The Museum will celebrate the exhibition at a *Blue Monday* program on February 11. The event begins at 6 p.m. and features a light dinner and libations set to the bluegrass music of Mt. City Grass. The artist also will be in attendance to discuss her works on view. Cost is \$20 per person. For reservations, call the Museum at (814) 946-4464.

The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Altoona is located in the Brett Building at 1210 Eleventh Avenue. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday. The Museum is a handicapped-accessible

facility and is open to the public free of charge. Parking is available in the garage across the street or in metered spots in the lot at the rear of the building. For more information, call the Museum or visit www.sama-art.org.

This project was made possible through the AIE Partnership of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency. State government funding for the arts depends upon an annual appropriation by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and support from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. The PCA Arts-in-Education Partner in this region is the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art.