

May 5, 2016

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SAMA-ALTOONA EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS PENNSYLVANIA ART

Altoona – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Altoona is pleased to announce the opening of its latest exhibition, *Forty Years of Celebrating Pennsylvania Artists*. Opening May 27 in the Shirley and Fred A. Pechter Gallery and the Paul I. Detwiler Education Center, the exhibition features a total of 52 works by 46 Pennsylvania artists. The exhibition will remain on view through October 15.

Presented as part of the Museum's 40th anniversary celebration, this exhibition highlights a sampling of the local and regional artwork that graces the SAMA permanent collection. Appearing alongside nationally recognized names like Gary Bukovnik, Alexander Calder and Philip Pearlstein will be well-known regional artists such as Jory Albright, Ron Donoughe, Edward J. Glannon, Helen Gorsuch, Thomas Hollobaugh, Kevin Kutz and Alfred S. Wall, among others.

“Our fortieth anniversary was the perfect opportunity to showcase the Museum's impressive collection of local and regional art,” said SAMA-Altoona Coordinator Barbara Hollander. “Throughout the past four decades, our collection has grown from several dozen objects to more than 4,000. I invite our public to come view just a small sampling of our incredible permanent collection.”

Forty years ago, the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art first opened its doors to the public with a collection of 47 paintings, drawings and sculpture, plus a collection of 20 etchings by John Sloan. In the four decades since, the SAMA permanent collection has grown to number more than 4,300 works and represents many of the nation's most respected and influential artists. Will Barnet, Thomas Hart Benton, Mary Cassatt, William Merritt Chase, Helen Frankenthaler, Thomas Moran, Andy Warhol and Grant Wood are just a few of those artists represented in the SAMA collection.

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.