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ALLIED ARTISTS ANNUAL EXHIBITION RETURNS TO SAMA-JOHNSTOWN

JOHNSTOWN – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Johnstown is pleased to announce the opening of its latest exhibition, *Allied Artists of Johnstown 87th Annual Juried Art Exhibition*. The exhibition opens August 9 and will remain on view through December 14. The Allied Artists exhibition annually presents compelling and inspiring artwork created by many of the area's most talented artists. This year's installment features work in acrylic, charcoal, clay, mixed media, oil, photography and watercolor, among other media. Nearly 30 artists will be represented in the exhibition.

Serving as juror, Clayton Merrill is currently the Dorothy L. Stubnitz Professor of Art at Carnegie Mellon University. He grew up in Pittsburgh and Puerto Ordaz, Venezuela, and earned an MFA degree at Yale School of Art in 1995. Merrill was awarded a Fulbright grant for research and creative work in Oaxaca, Mexico in 1996-97. His work is included in the collections of the American Embassy in Belmopan, Belize; the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, D.C.; the U.S. Department of the Interior; and many other public and private collections.

Begun in the mid-1920s when Margery Coleman Harris and seven of her friends formed an art group to share their interest in painting, the Allied Artists of Johnstown was formally incorporated in 1932. The organization has grown from its original membership of eight to more than 100 artists. The group mounts an average of three exhibitions annually, sponsors scholarships for graduating high school seniors pursuing careers in the arts and, through its Friends of Art Fund, donates artwork to local public institutions.

The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Johnstown is located in the Pasquerilla Performing Arts Center on the campus of the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. Hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Museum is a handicapped-accessible facility and is open to the public free of charge. For more information, please call the Museum at (814) 269-7234 or visit www.sama-art.org.