

February 19, 2019
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JOHNSTOWN TO EXHIBIT WORK FROM MUSEUM/HEALTHCARE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

JOHNSTOWN – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art’s eighth annual *The Art of Healing Exhibition* returns to the Johnstown Museum this spring. The exhibition opens Thursday, March 21, 2019 and will remain open until Friday, May 10, 2019. The exhibition highlights artwork created during SAMA’s Museum Healthcare Partnership Program residencies at Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center. This year’s installment offers works created during residencies with SAMA teaching artists Deb Bunnell and Jaime Cooper.

The Museum encourages the public to commemorate the work of its Museum/Healthcare Partnership Program through programming opportunities including a reception on Thursday March 21, 2019 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. to make reservations to attend the reception call (814) 472-3920.

In 2003, the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art first introduced an initiative designed to help area residents suffering from mental and physical disabilities which became its Museum/Healthcare Partnership Program. Through the program, the Museum’s trained artists and educators work with health care providers to develop residencies and workshops aimed at providing relief for patients dealing with physical pain and discomfort.

Since its early beginnings as a partnership with Conemaugh Health System and a series of Artist-in-Residence programs at the Conemaugh Medical Center, the Museum’s program has grown to work with multiple organizations. During the residencies, patients have the opportunity of working with a number of professional artists and learn various artistic disciplines such as painting, sculpting, puppetry, dance, collage, storytelling, and many others. Since its inception, this program has benefited more than 800 individuals throughout central and western Pennsylvania.

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.

The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art in Johnstown is located at the Pasquerilla Performing Arts Center on the campus of the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays. The Museum is open to the public free of charge. For more information, visit www.sama-art.org or call (814) 472-3920.