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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PERMANENT COLLECTION EXHIBITION FOCUSES ON LOCAL AND REGIONAL ARTISTS

Altoona – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Altoona is pleased to announce the opening of its latest exhibition, *Friends, Rogues and Colleagues: Selections from the Permanent Collection*. The exhibition, on view August 16 through January 4, will feature more than thirty-five works culled from the Museum's permanent collection.

For fifteen years, Barbara Hollander has been a part of the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art, first as an Education Coordinator and currently as Site Coordinator of the Altoona Museum. For *Friends, Rogues and Colleagues*, Hollander reflected on her time at SAMA to organize an eclectic exhibition of more than thirty local and regional artists she has come to know and befriend. Among the featured artists are Jory Albright, Michael Allison, Lynn Baney, Allen Capriotti, Ron Donoughe, Yong Sook Kim-Lambert, Chuck Olson, John Rita, Bernard Schilling, Scott Steberger, Michael M. Strueber, Judith Counsel Vipond, and Kamal Youssef.

“Throughout my fifteen years with SAMA, I have been fortunate to be exposed to some of the greatest artists in this region, and beyond,” said Hollander. “Through our many exhibitions, opening receptions, and special events, I have had the pleasure of meeting countless artists, many of whom I consider close friends. This exhibition not only celebrates some of those individuals who have touched my life, but also highlights the artists' incredible skill and creativity.”

When SAMA first opened its doors in 1976, its collection featured 47 paintings, sculpture and drawings and a collection of twenty etchings by John Sloan. Today, the collection numbers more than 4,000 works by many of the nation's most significant artists, including Thomas Hart Benton, Albert Bierstadt, Mary Cassatt, Reginald Marsh, Thomas Moran, Andy Warhol, and Grant Wood, among others.

To help celebrate the exhibition, the Museum will host a special *Blue Monday* event from 6 to 8 p.m. on September 16. Light supper and libations will be provided while guests enjoy the music of Bodacious B. Cost is \$20 per person. Please call the Museum at (814) 946-4464 for reservations.

The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art 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.