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For more information, contact:  
Barbara Hollander, Altoona Site-Coordinator  
(814) 946-4464

## **LOCAL TATTOO ARTISTS ON DISPLAY AT ALTOONA MUSEUM**

ALTOONA— The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art in Altoona is excited to announce its latest exhibition, *Inside the Outsiders: Timmy Ickes and Robert Hecker* on display May 24 to November 16. Ickes and Hecker were both born and raised in Altoona, Pennsylvania. Ickes draws influence from neo-traditional tattoo art, colors, portraits, realism, and the Art Deco master, Erté. Hecker uses the documentation of his dreams over the past 15 years as continued inspiration for his work.

Ickes planned on attending the Art Institute of Pittsburgh to become a chef but two weeks before move-in day, he ran into a popular Pittsburgh tattoo artist named Jason Angst. After seeing Angst tattoo, Ickes chose to follow his dream of having a “rockstar” job and began his tattooing career. Only a few years into his career, Ickes became a very popular and well-known artist. Ickes’ work sheds light on the societal pressure to maintain an image and its effect on the psyche.

After losing his father in 1992 and mother in 2006, Hecker took his confusion and anger and began drawing on everything, including school tests, train cars, and eventually began tattooing. In 2009, Hecker opened Resilience Tattoo Co. in Downtown Altoona after being sober for one full year. He is obsessed with antiques and has a serious phobia of very small insects, especially the brown dog tick. Hecker’s work provokes thoughts of deep loss, panic, anger, and confusion, using a little bit of humor to create surprising emotions.

The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art in Altoona is located at the Brett Building in Downtown Altoona. 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](http://www.sama-art.org) or call (814) 946-4464.