

Southern Alleghenies Museum Of Art

PROFILE



MISSION

The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art exists to preserve, exhibit, and advance American art and is dedicated to making its programs and activities accessible to the people of the southwestern area of central Pennsylvania. By establishing and maintaining a museum of art and by providing programs and activities of a public, charitable, civic, cultural, literary, and educational nature, the Museum serves the people of the region. Charged with the development, maintenance, and perpetuation of a permanent collection, the Museum mounts exhibitions designed to evoke an interest in and an understanding and appreciation of American art. As well, it serves as a repository for distinctive collections.



SAMA-Altoona



SAMA-Loretto

HISTORY

- SAMA opened its doors in June of 1976 with a permanent collection consisting of 47 paintings, drawings, and sculpture, and a collection of 20 etchings by John Sloan.
- Michael M. Strueber was appointed as SAMA's first Director, with the Rev. Sean M. Sullivan, T.O.R., the first President of the Board of Trustees.
- SAMA received accreditation from the American Association of Museums (AAM) in 1996.
- SAMA has been a partner of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (PCA) since 1998.
- The Museum welcomes approximately 60,000 visitors annually.
- SAMA's service region covers Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fayette, Somerset, and Westmoreland counties.
- SAMA's four museums are open to the public free of charge.

LOCATIONS

- SAMA-Loretto (founded in 1976)
Hours: Tuesday through Friday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Saturday 1 – 5 p.m.
- SAMA-Altoona (founded in 1979)
Hours: Tuesday through Friday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Saturday 1 – 5 p.m.
- SAMA-Johnstown (founded in 1982)
Hours: Monday through Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- SAMA-Ligonier Valley (founded in 1997)
Hours: Tuesday through Friday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Saturday & Sunday 1 – 5 p.m.



SAMA-Ligonier Valley



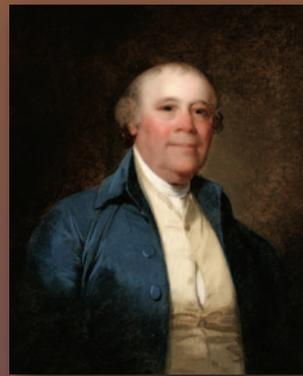
SAMA-Johnstown

MILESTONES & AWARDS

- SAMA boasts the longest running satellite museum system in the country.
- SAMA received the 1997/1998 Best Practice in Pennsylvania Arts Education Award from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and the Pennsylvania Department of Education.
- Americans for the Arts and Binney & Smith awarded SAMA the "Power of Creativity" Community Arts Education Award Initiative in the fall of 2001.
- In 2002, SAMA was named a recipient of one of six national awards from the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) that honor outstanding museums and libraries that demonstrate an ongoing institutional commitment to public service.
- The Museum was named one of two primary beneficiaries (the other being the National Academy of Design in New York City) of the estate of Geoffrey Wagner. Through the bequest, SAMA received a vast collection of artwork and memorabilia by Wagner's late wife, artist Colleen Browning.
- In 2011, during its 35th anniversary, SAMA received induction into the Blair County Arts Hall of Fame and was named a recipient of the Allegheny Mountains Convention & Visitors Bureau's President's Award.

NOTEWORTHY PROGRAMS.....

- SAMA facilitates an ambitious Arts-in-Education program for public and parochial schools. Through the program, museum educators take works from the permanent collection into the schools to provide programs designed to enhance students' understanding of art creation, technique, history, criticism and aesthetics.
- The Artist-in-Residence program, administered in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, provides an opportunity for students to work side-by-side with professional artists with mutual involvement in the creative process.
- SAMA's residency program branched out in 2003 to meet the needs of elderly and infirmed populations with the Museum/Healthcare Partnership Program. The program has provided relief for thousands of patients dealing with physical pain and discomfort. Recently, the program has been expanded to include working with veterans, as well as placing a greater emphasis on mentally challenged citizens and individuals on the autism spectrum.
- SAMA's four museums offer a variety of programs throughout the year, including professional development workshops for artists and educators, a Lunch a l'Art lecture series, exhibition receptions, and summer art camps.
- SAMA hosts a number of fundraisers throughout the year, chief among them SAMA-Loretto's summer Gala, which has garnered a reputation as being one of the region's most sophisticated annual social events. Additionally, SAMA-Altoona offers Think Pink, an annual fashion show event held in conjunction with the American Cancer Society, and SAMA-Ligonier Valley annually hosts a Garden Party, which is set amongst the Museum's beautiful flower gardens.
- One of the Museum's most successful programs is SAMA-Altoona's *Wicked Wednesday*. The program combines the best of the region's musical, culinary, and fine arts in one setting.
- Each December, the Ligonier Valley Museum hosts a *Holiday Home Tour* of several of the region's most beautiful and cheerfully decorated homes.
- SAMA-Ligonier Valley offers the annual plein air painting program, *Paint Out*, held in late summer or early fall.



Gilbert Stuart
Portrait of Captain Joseph Anthony,
n.d., c. 1795

PERMANENT COLLECTION.....

- SAMA's permanent collection represents many prominent national artists, but also strives to maintain a repository of western and central Pennsylvania's contributions to American art, and boasts a strong catalogue of local and regional artists.
- The permanent collection numbers more than 4,200 works of art. Abstract, Abstract Expressionism, American Scene, Cubism, Expressionism, Fauvism, Impressionism, Minimalism, Neo-classicism, Post-Modernism, Realism, and Surrealism are well represented in the collection.
- SAMA is the world's foremost repository for the artwork of Magic Realist painter, Colleen Browning.
- SAMA's holdings include special collections such as the Charles M. Schwab Collection of presentation silver and other memorabilia, the Colleen Browning Collection, the Donald M. Robinson Collection, the Frank and Margaret Sullivan Collection of modern paperweights, the Mark del Costello Collection of American graphic design prints, the Nicholas Unkovic Collection of Steuben glass, the O'Neill Collection of old master prints, the Rezk Collection of Tibetan and Nepalese Art, and the Walter Carlyle Shaw Collection of historical and contemporary paperweights.
- The permanent collection includes works by prominent artists such as Will Barnet, William Bazotes, Thomas Hart Benton, Albert Bierstadt, Mary Cassatt, William Merritt Chase, Walt Kuhn, Thomas Moran, Gilbert Stuart, Thomas Sully, Andy Warhol, and Grant Wood, among others.
- SAMA's collection of significant regional artists includes Franklin Dullin Briscoe, Frederick Counsel, George Hetzel, Thomas Hollobaugh, and William H. Rau.

NOTED EXHIBITIONS.....

- In its first year, SAMA mounted a major show featuring the Virginia Steel Scott Collection, a world premiere of American art displayed during the 1976 Bicentennial celebration. The exhibition had traveled from Pasadena, CA, and put SAMA on the art world's map early in the Museum's history.
- Other noteworthy exhibitions include *Pittsburgh Glass, 1797-1891* (1979); *Manufactured by Hand: The Soap Hollow School* (1993); *A Glass Triumvirate* (2004), celebrating the glass art of William Morris, Howard Ben Tré and Henry L. Hillman, Jr.; and *Portraits of the Eastern Frontier* (2008), which featured works by noted historical painters Robert Griffing and John Buxton, among others, and coincided with Ligonier's 250th anniversary.
- SAMA's commitment to promoting local arts extends to the exhibition calendar. SAMA-Loretto established a tradition of celebrating the area's finest artists with an invitational Triennial, which continues today in the form of the Biennial. Each of SAMA's three satellite facilities hosts annual exhibitions of regional art groups (Allied Artists of Johnstown at SAMA-Johnstown, Art in Common at SAMA-Altoona, and Southwestern Pennsylvania Council for the Arts at SAMA-Ligonier Valley).
- SAMA developed the traveling exhibition, *Colleen Browning: A Brush with Magic*, to celebrate the life and career of the talented Magic Realist artist. The exhibition opened in Dublin, Ireland, and was shown in New York City, Connecticut, Ohio, and Texas.
- The Museum's Ligonier Valley and Loretto facilities host the annual *Artists of the 21st Century* student art exhibition, which provides hundreds of young artists with an opportunity to see their work exhibited in a gallery setting.



Colleen Browning
The Dream, 1996

TRUSTEES/DIRECTOR EMERITUS.....

- Founding director Michael M. Strueber is Director Emeritus.
- The Rev. Sean M. Sullivan, T.O.R., was the first individual bestowed with the honor of Trustee Emeritus.
- In 2012, Betty Gamble, Jeanne Gleason, Edgar Dean Nelson and Shirley Pechter were appointed to the position of Trustee Emeritus. Recent appointments include Joseph Mack and Gerald Wolf in 2014 and Joan McCreary in 2015.

MUSEUM CONTACTS.....

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You can also visit SAMA's website, www.sama-art.org

