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**SAMA-LIGONIER VALLEY EXHIBITION TO TRACE TWO ARTISTS' PATH
OF LIFE, LOVE AND ART**

Ligonier – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Ligonier Valley is pleased to announce the opening of its latest exhibition, *Things, Thoughts & Imagination Highlights-Plus: Shirley Zampelli Sturtz-Davis and William D. Davis*. On view September 4 through November 8, the exhibition features the stylistically diverse work of Shirley Zampelli Sturtz-Davis and the late William D. Davis, challenging viewers to find connections between the artists' strikingly dissimilar works while tracing their winding path of life, love and art. *Things, Thoughts & Imagination* debuted at SAMA's Loretto Museum in 2009, although this installment features 16 new works.

An artist for nearly 60 years, Sturtz-Davis is a watercolorist dedicated to still lifes and garden views. Her works often depict personally significant objects and exude an overall sense of fantasy, beauty and whimsy. A Lewistown native, Sturtz-Davis received a B.S. in art education and an M.A. in studio art from the Pennsylvania State University. She retired from the Shippensburg University (SU) art department in 1998. Prior to retiring, she served as director of the SU Fashion Archives from 1989 through 1996. She also was director of the Central Intermediate Unit 10 Arts in Education Program from 1976 to 1989. Sturtz-Davis has exhibited her art in numerous solo and invitational shows and is included in several public collections. Since 1993, she has been juried into over 190 international, national, regional or state shows in 17 states. She is published in seven books or magazines and is a signature member of 10 watercolor societies. Recently, her work *Carnival on Kraig's Quilt* received the Salis International & Jack Richeson Award in the *2015 Baltimore Watercolor Society Mid-Atlantic Regional Watercolor Exhibition*.

In striking contrast to watercolor still lifes, Davis's graphite drawings and works in stoneware and other media present viewers with a confusing but all-consuming reality. Often combining the childish with the gothic and the familiar with the unknown, Davis's works transport viewers to a dream-like world. Touted for his vivid imagination, knowledge of art history and love of teaching and gardening, Davis drew on a wide range of experiences for artistic inspiration. A native of Erie, Davis received a B.S. in art education from Edinboro University and an M.F.A. in printmaking from the Pennsylvania State University. He served as associate director of the Museum of Art

at Penn State and retired as assistant professor of art from Shippensburg University in 2003. Davis exhibited his work in one-person, group, invitational, regional, state, national and international juried exhibitions and won numerous awards for his art.

The Museum will host an opening reception with Sturtz-Davis on Saturday, September 5 from 3 to 5 p.m. The reception is open to the public free of charge, though reservations are requested by August 28. For reservations or more information, please call the Museum at (724) 238-6015.

The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Ligonier Valley is located at One Boucher Lane and Route 711 South in Ligonier. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. weekends. The Museum is a handicapped-accessible facility and is open to the public free of charge. For more information, call the Museum or visit www.sama-art.org.