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## **SAMA-JOHNSTOWN TO HOST ALLIED ARTISTS EXHIBITION**

Johnstown – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Johnstown is pleased to announce the opening of its latest exhibition, *Allied Artists of Johnstown 84<sup>th</sup> Annual Juried Art Exhibition*. The exhibition opens August 12 and will remain on view through December 9. The Allied Artists exhibition annually presents compelling and inspiring artwork created by many of the area's most talented artists.

Kathleen Kase Burk of Ebensburg won the Jim and Chris Richey Award for her pencil drawing, *Box Kebab #3*. Other prize recipients include Tracy Bradford of New Florence, Norman Ed of Johnstown, Joy Fairbanks of Blairsville, Larry Mallory of Glen Campbell, Bennett Vaughn of Ebensburg, and Kim Williams of Johnstown.

Serving as juror was Pittsburgh artist and educator Constance Merriman. A graduate of Carnegie Mellon University, Merriman has taught art at Carnegie Museum of Art, Seton Hill University, Carlow University and Carnegie Mellon University, where she was a Fellow at the STUDIO for Creative Inquiry from 2004-2009. She exhibits her work regionally and nationally, and has received numerous awards and fellowships, including the 2013 Master of Visual Arts Award from the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts.

SAMA-Johnstown will celebrate the exhibition's opening with a reception on Friday, August 12 from 6 to 8 p.m. The event is open to the public free of charge.

Begun in the mid-1920s when Margery Coleman Harris and seven of her friends formed an art group to share their interest in painting, the Allied Artists of Johnstown was formally incorporated in 1932. The organization has grown from its original membership of eight to more than 100 artists. The group mounts an average of four exhibitions annually, sponsors scholarships for graduating high school seniors pursuing careers in the arts, and, through its Friends of Art Fund, donates art work to local public institutions.

The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Johnstown is located in the Pasquerilla Performing Arts Center on the campus of the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. Hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Museum is a handicapped-accessible facility and is open to the public free of charge. For more information, please call the Museum at (814) 269-7234 or visit [www.sama-art.org](http://www.sama-art.org).