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ALLIED ARTISTS EXHIBITION RETURNS TO SAMA-JOHNSTOWN

Johnstown – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Johnstown is pleased to announce the opening of its latest exhibition, *Allied Artists of Johnstown 81st Annual Juried Art Exhibition*. The exhibition opens September 6 and will remain on view through December 14.

The Allied Artists exhibition annually presents compelling and inspiring artwork created by many of the area's most talented artists. This year's installment features more than sixty works in a variety of media, including photography, oil, acrylic, colored pencil, jewelry, pottery and mixed media, among others.

"Allied Artists of Johnstown is pleased to present its *81st Annual Juried Exhibition* at SAMA-Johnstown," said Diane Safko, President of Allied Artists of Johnstown. "SAMA has hosted our annual exhibition exclusively for more than a decade. It is a decisively ample and pleasant space in which to showcase the talents of our artists and Allied Artists of Johnstown is grateful for the opportunity to exhibition at the Johnstown Museum."

Serving as exhibition juror is Michael Campbell, professor of art at Shippensburg University since 1990 and director of the University's Kauffman Gallery. Campbell earned an MFA from Ohio University and also has studied throughout Pennsylvania and at The Art Students League of New York. He has an extensive background as a juror and his artwork has been featured in 82 solo, national and regional exhibitions.

SAMA-Johnstown will celebrate the exhibition's opening with a reception on Friday, September 6 from 6 to 8 p.m. The event is open to the public free of charge. Eleven cash prizes and three honorable mentions will be presented at the reception.

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 today. The group produces 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 or visit www.sama-art.org.

The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art receives state arts funding support through a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.