

September 12, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact:

Tina Lehman, SAMA-Johnstown Coordinator
(814) 269-7234

Travis Mearns, Public Relations Coordinator
(724) 238-6015

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 80th Annual Juried Art Exhibition*. The exhibition opens October 12 and will remain on view through January 5.

The Allied Artists exhibition annually presents compelling and inspiring works created by many of the area's most talented artists. This year's installment features seventy works created by thirty-two artists in a variety of media, including photography, watercolor, oil, acrylic, pencil, jewelry, glass, and mixed media, among others.

"It is a special year for the Allied Artists of Johnstown," said Tina Lehman, SAMA-Johnstown Coordinator. "The group is celebrating its 80th annual juried exhibition this fall and SAMA is pleased to be hosting it. With seventy works of art, this show is one of the largest they've had in recent years. The Allied Artists never disappoint, so make sure you put a stop to the Museum on your calendars this fall."

Artist Maura Koehler Keeney will serve as exhibition juror. Keeney is a fine arts professor at Indiana University of Pennsylvania and Westmoreland County Community College. Her artwork has been exhibited in numerous juried regional exhibitions, and recently received a second place award at the *Southwestern Pennsylvania Council for the Arts 16th Annual Regional Juried Art Exhibition* and Best of Show at the *Annual Mr. Fred Rodgers Juried Art Exhibition* at Latrobe Art Center.

SAMA-Johnstown will celebrate the exhibition's opening with a reception on Thursday, November 8 from 6 to 8 p.m. The event is open to the public free of charge. The Museum also will host a Lunch a l'Art program with Allied Artists members on November 29. The program begins at noon, and includes lunch and a gallery tour by the exhibiting artists. Cost is \$9 per person. Please call the Museum by November 26 for reservations.

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.