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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SAMA-LIGONIER VALLEY TO HOST OIL PAINTING CLASSES

Ligonier – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Ligonier Valley will host a series of oil painting classes in September. The program will consist of four classes and will be led by artist Rita Haldeman. The classes are scheduled for 2 to 4 p.m. on September 6, 8, 13 and 15.

Over the course of the four classes, students will be introduced to oil painting in both studio and outdoor settings. Haldeman will showcase a variety of oil painting techniques and will discuss the differences in oil paints available to the public, including demonstrations on a variety of surfaces such as canvas, panel and paper. Classes will be held in the Museum as well as outdoors among the flower gardens as students have an opportunity to paint *en plein air*. For the studio lessons, students are encouraged to bring photographs for use as reference material.

A rostered artist with SAMA and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, Haldeman is an accomplished painter whose work is highly collected and has been shown in galleries and museums throughout Pennsylvania. She has a B.A. from Penn State University and has studied at the Vermont Studio School and Colony and the Cape School of Art in Cape Cod. She has received a number of major awards, including First Prize at the Three Rivers Arts Festival in Pittsburgh, First Prize in the St. Vincent College Monastery Run Competition, and the Landscape Award at the *Arts for the Parks* exhibition in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. She spent much of this summer painting on location in Maine, Delaware and on Chincoteague Island.

The classes will be taught in a relaxed atmosphere and are designed for beginners and intermediates. Cost is \$35 per person, which covers all four classes. Materials will be provided, although students may bring their own supplies if desired. Reservations are required by September 2 by calling the Museum at (724) 238-6015.

SAMA's series of art classes are designed to introduce students to a wide variety of artistic techniques and media and are taught by the Museum's roster of professional teaching artists. Class size is limited to provide maximum instructor interaction for each student.

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, contact the Museum or visit www.sama-art.org.