

July 15, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact:

Barbara Hollander, SAMA-Altoona Coordinator
(814) 946-4464

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

ALTOONA MUSEUM TO HOST JURIED EXHIBITION OF LOCAL ART

Altoona – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Altoona is pleased to announce the return of the annual juried exhibition, *Artists in Our Midst*. The exhibition, on view August 15 through December 6, will once again highlight local and regional artists who are members of Art in Common, an arts organization based in Central Pennsylvania.

The exhibition will be in the Museum's Shirley and Fred A. Pechter Gallery and Paul I. Detwiler Education Center. With eighty-four works created by thirty-four artists, *Artists in Our Midst* showcases a wide variety of media, including photography, watercolor, acrylic, oil, pastel, clay and mixed media, among others. Serving as exhibition juror was SAMA-Ligonier Valley Coordinator and visual artist Sommer Toffle.

For the last six years, Toffle has been Site Coordinator of SAMA's Ligonier Valley Museum, where she has curated several exhibitions featuring both noted regional artists and up-and-coming young artists. Toffle has a B.FA from West Virginia University with a specialization in printmaking and art education. In addition to her work at the Museum, she has taught drawing classes at the Latrobe Art Center and Ligonier's Loft. A working artist, she participates in group exhibitions, portfolio exchanges and has done several commissions for individuals and businesses.

The Museum will celebrate the exhibition at a *Blue Monday* program on September 15. The event begins at 6 p.m. and features a light dinner, libations and live music by Bodacious B. Cost is \$20 per person or \$14 for Art in Common members. For reservations, call the Museum at (814) 946-4464.

The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Altoona is located in the Brett Building at 1210 Eleventh Avenue. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday. The Museum is a handicapped-accessible facility and is open to the public free of charge. Parking is available in the garage across the street or in metered spots in the lot at the rear of the building. For more information, call the Museum or visit www.sama-art.org.