

September 20, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact:

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

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

AWARD RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED IN ART IN COMMON EXHIBITION

Altoona – Eleven artists from Art in Common’s annual *Artists in Our Midst* exhibition were recognized with juror’s awards and mentions. The exhibition is on view in the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Altoona’s Shirley and Fred A. Pechter Gallery and Paul I. Detwiler Education Center through January 19.

First place was awarded to Helen Gorsuch of Altoona for her three-piece, raku-fired sculpture, *Hens*. Sharon Wall of Altoona received the second place award, while John Hovenstine of Hollidaysburg took third place. Honorable mentions were awarded to Jory Albright, Steve Gilbert, Lynn Marchetti Heverly, Billie Hollen, and Annette Zalanowski, each of Altoona; Kathleen Kase Burk of Ebensburg; Yong Sook Kim-Lambert of Birmingham; and David McCoy of Hollidaysburg. Melissa Kuntz, Associate Professor of Art and Art Department Chair at Clarion University, served as exhibition juror.

The Museum will celebrate the exhibition at a *Blue Monday* program on October 8. The event begins at 6 p.m. and features a light dinner and libations set to the music of Stormy. Cost is \$20 per person or \$10 for Art in Common members. For reservations, call the Museum at (814) 946-4464.

Artists in Our Midst is an annual juried exhibition that showcases the work of Art in Common members. The group is dedicated to establishing a forum for amateur and professional visual artists to display and discuss their work, as well as to foster a wider appreciation of the visual arts throughout the community. There are currently about 100 Art in Common members, many residing in Blair County and the surrounding area. This year’s exhibition features 77 works created by 27 artists in a variety of media, including photography, watercolor, wood, acrylic, oil, clay, fiber arts, and mixed media.

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.