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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ARTISTS IN ACTION TOUR SCHEDULED FOR LIGONIER MUSEUM

Ligonier – This September, the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Ligonier Valley will introduce a tour of artists' studios, but with a twist: instead of just visiting the studios, the Museum's *Artists in Action Studio Tour* will allow the public to watch artists as they actually create artwork. Sponsored by the Museum's Auxiliary, the *Artists in Action Studio Tour* is a self-driving tour of six separate artist studios, with a total of eight artists participating in disciplines such as painting, woodworking, photography/digital art, graphic illustration, paper cutting, and fiber arts. The program will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, September 21.

“What makes this tour exciting and unique is the opportunity to actually see the artists ‘in action’ as they create their artwork,” said SAMA-Ligonier Valley Coordinator Sommer Toffle. “Not only are you getting a glimpse into their unique world, but you are also able to see how they work.”

During the *Artists in Action Studio Tour*, guests will have an opportunity to visit the studios of three painters: Gene Kravits, Paulette Nickel, and Helen Thorne. At Kravits' studio, located in the Mezzanine Gallery above his antiques shop, guests will marvel at the selection of paintings, ranging from still lifes to plein air landscapes. Nickel's airy, open studio overlooks Linn Run Creek. Her still life paintings were featured in a solo exhibition at SAMA-Ligonier Valley. At Thorne's studio, guests will have the opportunity to watch three artists in action. In addition to Thorne, a painter, also present will be Linda Peck, a paper cutter, and Catherine Rosensteel, who will be demonstrating her hand-painted silken ware.

Also participating in the tour is contemporary woodworker Paul Sirofchuck. In his large workspace, guests will find him hard at work on his one-of-a-kind furniture pieces which have won him a number of awards. At Richard McWherter's studio, guests will find a wide variety of photography and digital media equipment. While at his studio, guests will be encouraged to try their hand at McWherter's artistic technique on his equipment. The tour also provides an intimate look at artist John Ritter's studio. Guests will have the unique opportunity to watch Ritter as he creates his vibrant

American Post-Pop illustrations, which regularly grace the pages of some of the nation's leading newspapers and publications.

Tickets to the *Artists in Action Studio Tour* are \$20 per person. Tickets can be purchased by calling the Museum at (724) 238-6015. The tour begins at 10 a.m., when guests can stop by the Museum to pick up tickets and maps to the studios. Guests also will have an opportunity to purchase artwork by the participating artists at their studios.

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, please call the Museum or visit www.sama-art.org.