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SAMA-ALTOONA TO HOST ANNUAL ART IN COMMON EXHIBITION

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 October 21 through February 4, 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 displayed in the Museum's Shirley and Fred A. Pechter Gallery and Paul I. Detwiler Education Center. With 69 works created by 28 artists, *Artists in Our Midst* showcases a wide variety of media, including photography, watercolor, acrylic, oil, pastel, fiber art, clay and mixed media, among others.

Serving as exhibition juror was artist and educator Ivan Fortushniak. A nationally known artist, Fortushniak is represented in public and private collections including the Spencer Art Museum and the Dayton Art Center. He has won several awards, including the First Place Purchase Award at Eastern Kentucky University's *Freedom* exhibition. Fortushniak is currently an associate professor of painting and drawing at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

The Museum will celebrate the exhibition at a Wicked Wednesday program on December 14. The event begins at 6 p.m. and features champagne and desserts with live music by Stormy. Cost is \$15 per person. 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.