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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact:

Jessica Campbell, Education Coordinator

(814) 472-3920

Travis Mearns, Public Relations Coordinator

(724) 238-6015

STUDENT ART EXHIBITION RETURNS TO SAMA MUSEUMS

Loretto – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art will continue its tradition of celebrating the area’s talented young artists with the return of *Artists of the 21st Century*, the Museum’s annual student art exhibition. A total of 310 student-created works will be featured in the dual exhibitions. *Artists of the 21st Century* will be on view at SAMA-Loretto from February 8 through April 6 and at SAMA-Ligonier Valley from February 22 through April 21.

The exhibition, held in conjunction with National Youth Art Month and the State Arts-in-Education Month, is open to schools that participate in SAMA’s Museum/School Partnership Program. Through the program, SAMA educators travel to public and parochial schools to provide Arts-in-Education programs designed to enhance students’ understanding of art creation, technique, history, criticism and aesthetics. The award-winning program is the largest of its kind in the Commonwealth.

More than 300 students will be represented in the two exhibitions. Schools in Westmoreland and Fayette counties will be exhibited at SAMA-Ligonier Valley, while schools in Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Indiana and Somerset counties will be featured in the Loretto exhibition.

Each Museum will hold an opening reception to celebrate the exhibition and the region’s student artists. The SAMA-Loretto reception will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, February 16. SAMA-Ligonier Valley’s reception is scheduled for 1 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 3. Please note that parking for the Ligonier Valley reception is available at Fort Ligonier only, with free shuttles running to and from the Museum. The receptions are open to the public, but the Museum suggests a donation of \$1 per person in support of the exhibition.

SAMA Education Coordinator Jessica Campbell said the student art exhibition, now in its fifteenth year, is a special program for young artists. “This exhibition is a great opportunity for students to see their own work professionally exhibited in an accredited art museum,” she said. “It’s truly one of my favorite exhibitions because of the incredible diversity, and it allows the Museum to share the work of these talented young artists with the community.”

In total, 15 districts and 36 schools are participating in the student art exhibition. Each district is permitted to submit up to 20 individual projects and one group project. Schools represented in the Loretto exhibition include: Altoona Area High School; Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School; Bishop McCort Catholic High School; Blacklick Valley High School; Cambria Elementary School; Cambria

Heights Elementary School; Coal Country Hangout Youth Center; East Side Elementary School; Forest Hills Middle and High schools; Indiana Senior High School; Jackson Elementary School; Northern Cambria Middle and High schools; Portage Area Elementary School; Richland Elementary School; and Saint Michael School.

Schools participating in the SAMA-Ligonier Valley exhibition include: Baggaley Elementary School; Bovard Elementary School; Fort Allen Elementary School; Greater Latrobe Junior and Senior High schools; Greensburg Salem Middle and High schools; Hempfield Area Senior High School; Holy Trinity School; Latrobe Elementary School; Maxwell Elementary School; Mountain View Elementary School; Perry Elementary School; Stanwood Elementary School; Valley School of Ligonier; Wendover Middle School; West Hempfield Elementary and Middle schools; and West Point Elementary School.

Each of the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art's four locations – Altoona, Johnstown, Ligonier Valley and Loretto – is open to the public free of charge. Hours of operation at SAMA-Ligonier Valley are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. weekends. Hours of operation at SAMA-Loretto are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturdays. For more information, visit www.sama-art.org or call Jessica Campbell, Education Coordinator, at (814) 472-3920.

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