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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **SAMA MUSEUMS TO DISPLAY STUDENT ARTWORK**

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 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, the Museum’s annual student art exhibition. Nearly 300 student-created works will be featured in the dual exhibition. *Artists of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* will be on view at SAMA-Loretto from February 10 through April 8 and at SAMA-Ligonier Valley from February 17 through April 23.

Held in conjunction with National Youth Art Month and the State Arts-in-Education Month, the exhibition is open to schools that participate in SAMA’s Arts-in-Education or Artist-in-Residence program. Through the programs, SAMA educators and professional artists travel to public and parochial schools to provide lessons designed to enhance students’ understanding of art creation, technique, history, criticism and aesthetics. SAMA’s award-winning education initiative is the largest of its kind in the Commonwealth.

Fifteen districts and 37 schools are participating in the exhibition, offering a total of 285 works. Each district is permitted to submit up to 20 individual projects and two group projects. Schools in Westmoreland and Fayette counties will be exhibited at SAMA-Ligonier Valley, while schools in Bedford, Blair, Cambria 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, March 4. SAMA-Ligonier Valley’s reception is scheduled for 1 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 5. 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 show, now in its nineteenth year, is a special program for young artists. “Please take the opportunity to visit these exhibitions and view the wonderful student art on display,” she said. “You’ll see faces beaming with joy, proud parents and some truly amazing

artwork. I urge everyone to see what arts programming is happening in our local schools and to support your local district and their art program. SAMA is grateful for all the community support this exhibition receives, as well as the schools that place an emphasis on the arts and the teachers for their dedication. Most of all, please join us in acknowledging our area students for their incredible imagination and creativity.”

Schools represented in the Loretto exhibition include: Altoona Area High School and Junior High; Bishop Guilfoyle High School; Blacklick Valley Elementary Center and Junior Senior High School; Cambria Heights Elementary and High schools; Claysburg-Kimmel Junior-Senior High School; East Side Elementary; Forest Hills Elementary, Middle and High schools; Jackson Elementary; Northern Cambria Middle and High schools; Penn Cambria Primary, Intermediate, Middle and High schools; Portage Area Elementary and High schools; Saint Benedict Catholic School; and St. Michael School.

Schools participating in the SAMA-Ligonier Valley exhibition include: Baggaley Elementary School; Fort Allen Elementary; Greater Latrobe Senior High School; Harrold Middle School; Hempfield Area Senior High School; Jeannette McKee Elementary School; Latrobe Elementary School; Ligonier Valley High School; Maxwell Elementary; Mountain View Elementary School; Stanwood Elementary; Valley School of Ligonier; Wendover Middle School; and West Point Elementary.

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. SAMA-Loretto’s operating hours 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](http://www.sama-art.org) or call Jessica Campbell, Education Coordinator, at (814) 472-3920.

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