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## **SAMA-LORETTO TO OFFER RARE EXHIBITION OF WATERCOLORS**

Loretto – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Loretto is pleased to announce the opening of its latest exhibition, *Awash in Beauty: Watercolors from the Permanent Collection*. The exhibition opens December 12 in the Museum’s Margery Wolf-Kuhn Gallery and will remain on view through May 14, 2015.

With its luminous and transparent quality, the watercolor medium has been a favorite with American artists for more than 200 years. Yet the full range of its expressive possibilities was not tapped until late in the nineteenth century, when Winslow Homer and others began to expand the boundaries of traditional watercolor. Modernists such as Arthur Dove and John Marin pushed even further, and by 1920 or so, the watercolor painter could go in virtually any direction they chose. It is fair to say that the twentieth century saw American watercolor enter into its golden age – a golden age which, if recent work is any indicator, shows no signs of ending any time soon.

With more than forty works on view, *Awash in Beauty* surveys approximately 100 years of American watercolor, ranging from Thomas Moran’s untitled marine landscape of c. 1900 to contemporary work made within the last few years. Drawn from the Museum’s permanent collection, the exhibition features artists of national renown, including Colleen Browning, Charles Burchfield, Adolf Dehn, and Wallace Herndon Smith, among others. Regional talents are also well represented, and viewers can expect to see works by longtime favorites such as Frederick Counsel, Nat Youngblood, and Barbara Strank Zivkovich. As always, there is a diverse selection of styles and subjects, and for lovers of art, there will be much to reward their visit.

“This exhibition is somewhat unusual for SAMA,” said Dr. Scott Dimond, Curator for Visual Arts. “Watercolors are especially sensitive to light, and as such, we cannot display them frequently or for long periods of time. So this is an excellent opportunity to see fine work that is not often on view.”

The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Loretto is located on the campus of Saint Francis University. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. weekends. The Museum is open to the public free of charge. For

more information, please call the Museum at (814) 472-3920 or visit [www.sama-art.org](http://www.sama-art.org).