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**SAMA-JOHNSTOWN EXHIBITION TO CELEBRATE THE ART OF
LEONARD BASKIN**

Johnstown – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Johnstown is pleased to announce the opening of its latest exhibition, *Unlikely Heroes: Selected Prints by Leonard Baskin*. On view January 6 through March 17, the exhibition offers approximately 40 woodcuts, etchings and lithographs from the SAMA permanent collection.

A well-known printmaker and sculptor as well as a gifted teacher, Leonard Baskin brought new currency to figurative art during the 1950s and '60s. Turning away from the abstract styles that dominated the art world at that time, Baskin advocated a return to the humanism of the Renaissance. He revived ancient printmaking techniques and created images that reflected both the dignity and the suffering of humanity. He also placed a strong emphasis on faith and traditional religion, themes that were generally ignored by modernists but which were at the heart of much great art of the past.

Unlikely Heroes spotlights the artists, revolutionaries and people of faith that Baskin revered. American Indians, characters from *Moby Dick*, Old Testament queens and nineteenth-century painters all appear in Baskin's personal pantheon. There are even self-portraits, in which the artist stakes his own claim to the force of will and visionary insight that mark the Baskinesque hero. Rendered in Baskin's inimitable expressionist style, *Unlikely Heroes* is a striking celebration of the inner strength and creativity of mankind.

The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Johnstown is located in the Pasquerilla Performing Arts Center on the campus of the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. Hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Museum is a handicapped-accessible facility and is open to the public free of charge. For more information, please call the Museum at (814) 269-7234 or visit www.sama-art.org.