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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**MUSEUM TO HOST SYMPOSIUM ON AMERICAN REALISM; FOUR
DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARS SCHEDULED TO PRESENT**

Loretto – In early September, the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art in Loretto, Pennsylvania will host a major symposium on magic realist painter, Colleen Browning, and American realist art of the twentieth century. Participating in the *Colleen Browning Symposium on 20th Century American Realism* are four nationally recognized scholars: Dr. Henry Adams, Dr. Philip Eliasoph, Dr. Gail Levin, and Dr. Jonathan Weinberg. The symposium is part of a months-long celebration of SAMA's current four-venue exhibition of Browning works, on view at SAMA's museums in Altoona, Johnstown, Ligonier and Loretto.

The symposium will be held from 10 a.m. to noon on Monday, September 10 in the Museum's gallery. Dr. Eliasoph, author of the book *Colleen Browning: The Enchantment of Realism*, will chair the proceedings. For those unable to attend in person, the Museum will offer the symposium online as a podcast.

The Museum's line-up of symposium speakers has been described as one of the largest gatherings of top academics and scholars on American Realism in the twentieth century. A specialist in American art of the nineteenth century, Dr. Henry Adams has worked at a number of museums, including serving as Curator of Fine Arts at the Carnegie Museum of Art in Pittsburgh and Curator of American Art at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City. He has taught at the University of Illinois, the University of Pittsburgh, Colorado College, the University of Kansas, and the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Dr. Philip Eliasoph is Professor of Visual & Performing Arts at Fairfield University in Connecticut. He has made significant contributions to the field of American art with his research and publications on a number of overshadowed Magic Realist masters including Paul Cadmus, Robert Vickrey, and Colleen Browning. A public arts advocate, Eliasoph founded the Town of Fairfield Arts Council and was appointed as a Commissioner for the Connecticut Commission for Culture & Tourism.

Dr. Gail Levin is a professor of art history, American studies, and women studies at Baruch College and the Graduate Center of CUNY. She is an art historian

specializing in art of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, with diverse research interests that include Edward Hopper, Marsden Hartley, Judy Chicago, and women artists, among others. Her most recent book is *Becoming Judy Chicago: A Biography of the Artist*.

Dr. Jonathan Weinberg is a painter and art historian. He has authored several books, and his reviews and articles have appeared in *Art in America*, *Art Forum*, *The Art Journal*, and *The Yale Journal of Criticism*. He is a Visiting Critic at the Yale School of Art and a Lecturer at Rhode Island School of Design. In 2012-13, he will be a Visiting Associate Professor in the History of Art Department at Brown University.

Video of the *Colleen Browning Symposium on 20th Century American Realism* will be streamed live on the Internet using MediaSite. The technology will allow the webcast audience to view simultaneous live video and presentations (such as still pictures or Power Point slides). To view the webcast, visit <http://tinyurl.com/82vo5p7>. If you can't attend the live webcast or need to disconnect early, you can still view the presentation by visiting the above link at any time.

The symposium is designed to animate and expand an ongoing appreciation for realist art from multiple intellectual and artistic viewpoints. The initiative supports SAMA's mission to evoke an interest in, an understanding of, and an appreciation for American art.

With nearly 240 Browning works in its collection, SAMA is the world's foremost repository for the artist's work. Beginning August 23, SAMA will unveil four separate exhibitions chronicling Browning's 75-year career. The exhibitions, which will be on view at SAMA's locations in Altoona, Johnstown, Ligonier and Loretto, are part of the Museum's traveling exhibition, *Colleen Browning: A Brush with Magic*, which has already appeared in Ireland and New York City with dates in Connecticut, Ohio and Texas still to come.

The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art is a community art museum founded in 1976. SAMA successfully operates the nation's longest-running museum satellite system with four museum facilities in the southwestern Pennsylvania cities of Altoona, Johnstown, Ligonier and Loretto. SAMA maintains a permanent collection of more than 4,000 works of local, regional, national and international artists. SAMA's four museums offer award-winning education programs, special events, and approximately two dozen exhibitions annually. For more information on the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art, please visit www.sama-art.org.