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## **ALTOONA EXHIBITION TO FEATURE WORKS BY ACCLAIMED REGIONAL SCULPTOR**

Altoona – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Altoona is pleased to announce its latest exhibition, *From the Aegean to Altoona: Peter Calaboyias*. The exhibition, which opens May 2, features more than fifty works, including the artist's popular aluminum and bronze sculptures, as well as a number of paintings and prints. *From the Aegean to Altoona* will remain on view through August 9.

Calaboyias belongs to a dynamic group of American artists of Greek background who are able to blend their Hellenic past with a creative, contemporary and forceful style. Over a five-decade career as an artist and craftsman, Calaboyias has achieved international acclaim for his suggestive abstract sculpture. The artist derives much of his imagery from his Greek background, with ancient armor, stories from mythology and other Greek themes as a backdrop.

Calaboyias, of Pittsburgh, was born on the Greek Island of Ikaria but spent much of his early childhood on the run from Nazi forces in Greece and North Africa. After finding refuge in the Belgian Congo, the Calaboyias family was finally reunited with the father in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, in 1946. The artist spent the remainder of his youth there, subsequently pursuing studies at New York University and Pennsylvania State University. Earning a Master's degree in education at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Calaboyias commenced a dual career in teaching and sculpting. He has shown his work consistently since the mid-1960s, and over the succeeding decades, he has gained a significant reputation for public sculpture projects in Pittsburgh and elsewhere. Perhaps his best known work is *Tribute*, a large outdoor sculpture made for the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta. Slightly damaged in a pipe bomb explosion at Centennial Park, the sculpture was credited with shielding many people from the force of the blast.

The Museum will celebrate the exhibition at a Blue Monday on May 5. The program includes light supper and libations while guests enjoy traditional bluegrass music by Mt. City Grass. Cost is \$20 per person. Please call the Museum at (814) 946-4464 for reservations.

Calaboyias will speak at a Lunch a l' Art program at the Museum on July 23. The program, which begins at noon, will include lunch and a presentation by the artist. Cost is \$15 per person or \$14 for SAMA members. Please call the Museum for reservations.

The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Altoona is located in the Brett Building at 1210 Eleventh Avenue. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday. The Museum is a handicapped-accessible facility and is open to the public free of charge. Parking is available in the garage across the street or in metered spots in the lot at the rear of the building. For more information, call the Museum or visit [www.sama-art.org](http://www.sama-art.org).