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## **ALTOONA MUSEUM TO EXHIBIT LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHER'S WORKS**

Altoona – Many people use their vacations to see the world's most beautiful places, but for Christian James, that is his day job. James' brilliant photography will be on display at the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Altoona in the exhibition, *Journey of a Lifetime: The Photography of Christian James*. The exhibition opens May 17 and will remain on view through September 7.

A Bedford County native now living in Altoona, James is a prolific and successful photographer who has traveled 250,000 miles over the last five years to capture the most picturesque locations throughout the United States and Canada. James is a self-taught photographer who has risen to the top of his profession, as evidenced by receiving the award of Master Photographer from Professional Photographers of North America. A defining moment in James' life came when he developed and launched the website, [www.prophotospots.com](http://www.prophotospots.com), in 2012. The site has become a key marketplace for photographers to exchange ideas, as well as market and sell their work.

James' work is available in 160 galleries throughout the U.S. and Japan, and last year alone sold 3,000 prints and 12,000 books. His photographs are in the collections of several presidents, celebrities, and billionaires.

James will speak at a Lunch a l' Art program at the Museum on Wednesday, June 19. The program begins at noon and includes lunch and a presentation by the artist. Cost is \$13 or \$12 for SAMA members. Call the Museum at (814) 946-4464 for reservations or additional information.

The Museum also will celebrate the exhibition at a Blue Monday program on May 20. The event begins at 6 p.m. and features a light dinner and libations set to the music of Stormy. Cost is \$20 per person. Please call the Museum for reservations or information.

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).

This project was made possible through the AIE Partnership of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency. State government funding for the arts depends upon an annual appropriation by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and support from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. The PCA Arts-in-Education Partner in this region is the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art.