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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### ***CONVERSATIONS WITH THE CURATOR SERIES TO VISIT THE JUNGLE***

Loretto – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Loretto’s 2016 *Conversations with the Curator* lecture-and-lunch series will conclude on Thursday, December 8. The program will begin at 12 p.m. and includes a presentation by SAMA Curator for Visual Arts, Dr. Scott Dimond, as well as a box lunch. An informal Q&A period will follow.

The December program is titled “Green Frontier: The Jungle in American Popular Imagination.” Like the Wild West, the jungle is a land of the imagination: unknown, uncharted, and full of both dangers and possibilities. It is a frontier of sorts, and as such, it has always appealed to the American mind. In this talk, Dr. Dimond will survey the pervasive presence of the jungle in popular culture, from eighteenth-century displays of captive lions and elephants, to nineteenth-century paintings by Martin Johnson Heade and Frederic Edwin Church, to pop culture icons such as Tarzan of the Apes, Sheena, and Indiana Jones.

“These lectures are intended to be informative, yet informal and fun,” said Dimond. “There will be plenty of things to look at, as well as some ‘show-and-tell’ and opportunities for conversation. As I envision it, they will be a pleasant way to get a little art history under your belt, whether you are an artist, a collector, a teacher, or anyone who has an appreciation for American visual culture.”

Cost for *Conversations with the Curator* is \$25 per program, which includes lunch. Please R.S.V.P. to (814) 472-3920 by December 5. *Conversations with the Curator* will return in 2017.

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. Saturday. The Museum is open to the public free of charge. For more information, call the Museum or visit [www.sama-art.org](http://www.sama-art.org).