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**SAMA-LORETTO'S 2016 *CONVERSATIONS WITH THE CURATOR* SERIES
TO BEGIN IN MARCH**

Loretto – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Loretto will open its 2016 season of *Conversations with the Curator: A Lecture-and-Lunch Series for Art Lovers and Collectors*, on Thursday, March 17. 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 March program is titled “Gaiety and Grit: John Sloan’s *New York City Life* Series.” As a leader of the so-called Ashcan School, John Sloan introduced urban realism into the repertory of American art. Among his many enduring images of early twentieth-century New York, the body of etchings known as the *New York City Life* series stands out for its exceptional artistic and social content. When SAMA first opened its doors in 1976, it was fortunate in having already acquired most of Sloan’s *New York City Life* series, together with other early etchings. In honor of the Museum’s 40th anniversary and this important acquisition, this talk will survey Sloan’s early New York prints, offering insights into the artist, the Ashcan School, and the metropolis of a century ago.

“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 March 14. The next *Conversations with the Curator* program will be held June 9.

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.