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For more information, contact:

Barbara Hollander, SAMA-Altoona Coordinator
(814) 946-4464

Travis Mearns, Public Relations Coordinator
(724) 238-6015

SAMA-ALTOONA TO EXHIBIT PAINTINGS OF REGIONAL ARTIST

Altoona – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Altoona is pleased to announce the opening of its latest exhibition, *Dan Helsel: Creating Joy*. The exhibition features fifty of Helsel's landscape and still life paintings. *Dan Helsel: Creating Joy* opens January 17 in the Museum's Shirley and Fred A. Pechter Gallery and Paul I. Detwiler Education Center and will remain on view through April 26.

Helsel began painting in 1995 after retiring from business. He studied at The Sulkowski Academy of Fine Art in Canonsburg and has also participated in workshops led by artists James Sulkowski, Tom Nicholas and T.M. Nicholas. His brilliant landscape and still life paintings have been featured in solo and group exhibitions throughout western and central Pennsylvania, earning numerous awards. He is well regarded for possessing a deft artistic touch and style that harkens back to the Old Masters. He paints on oil-primed linen canvas and prepares his own panels from Gesso using a Renaissance formula.

Helsel will speak at a Lunch a l'Art program at the Museum on March 12. 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 at (814) 946-4464 for reservations.

The Museum also will celebrate the exhibition at a Blue Monday on January 27. The program includes light supper and libations while guests enjoy the classic rock music of Stormy. Cost is \$20 per person. 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.