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ALTOONA MUSEUM TO OFFER TIBETAN FILM FESTIVAL

Altoona – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Altoona will host a Tibetan film festival in early March. The program coincides with the Museum's current exhibition, *Tibetan Treasures: The Rezk Collection of Tibetan and Nepalese Art*.

The three-day film festival will be held over the course of March 5-7. A separate film will be shown each day beginning at 1 p.m. Refreshments will be provided. Cost is \$5 per day. Please call the Museum at (814) 946-4464 for reservations.

The festival will include showings of *Kundun*, *Vajra Sky over Tibet*, and *Why Has Boddhi-Dharma Left for the East?* *Kundun* explores the story of the Dalai Lama, Tibet's exiled spiritual ruler. Portraying his struggle to lead his nation during one of the most troubled times in its history, *Kundun* generated both controversy and critical acclaim. The film was directed by Martin Scorsese and features an Oscar-nominated musical score by Philip Glass. A documentary, *Vajra Sky over Tibet* covers the many faces of Tibetan Buddhism. Visits to temples, monasteries, and popular festivals give rich insight into the mysterious and beautiful customs of an endangered spiritual tradition. *Why Has Boddhi-Dharma Left for the East?* follows the path of a Zen master as he attempts to lead his disciples, a young monk and an orphaned boy, to enlightenment before he dies. The film was nominated one of the ten best films of all time by a panel of international film critics in 1993.

Featuring approximately seventy objects of Tibetan and Nepalese art spanning eight centuries, *Tibetan Treasures* offers a fascinating overview of the rich iconography of Tibet's unique form of Buddhism. Thangkas (scroll paintings), block prints, sculpture, and ceremonial and ritual pieces are included in the exhibition, which will remain on view through May 11.

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.

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.