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SAMA-LORETTO EXHIBITION TO HIGHLIGHT FINEST WORKS OF PERMANENT COLLECTION

Loretto – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Loretto is pleased to announce its latest exhibition, *The Finest of Forty: A Special Anniversary Exhibition of Outstanding Art from the Permanent Collection*. Opening June 24, the exhibition offers 100 of the most exemplary works in the SAMA collection. *The Finest of Forty* will remain on view through October 15.

Mounted in honor of SAMA's 40th anniversary, *The Finest of Forty* features significant paintings, prints, drawings and sculpture acquired by the Museum over the course of its four-decade history. Emphasizing the work of nationally known artists, the exhibition includes the work of iconic American masters such as Albert Bierstadt, John Singer Sargent and Gilbert Stuart. Contemporary leaders also make a notable showing, as exemplified in the work of Gene Davis, Carole Feuerman and Glenna Goodacre. From the SAMA special collections come a variety of noteworthy pieces, especially in the realm of glass and decorative artist. The exhibition also features two of the very first objects acquisitioned into the Museum's holdings – etchings by Thomas Cornell and Salvador Dali. With "something for everyone," this is a show not to be missed as SAMA celebrates its forty years of museum collecting.

Since its opening in 1976, the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art has grown its permanent collection from a mere 67 objects to one of Western Pennsylvania's largest public repositories of fine art. Presently numbering more than 4,300 paintings, drawings, prints, photographs, sculptures and work in other media, the SAMA collection emphasizes not only the best talents of the region, but also some of the greatest artists ever to come out of the United States. In addition, SAMA houses a number of remarkable special collections ranging from the Mark del Costello Collection of American Posters and Graphic Design to the Catherine and David O'Neill Collection of Old Master Prints and Drawings to the Rezk Collection of Tibetan and Nepalese Art.

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. Saturdays. The Museum is open to the public free of charge. For more information, please call (814) 472-3920 or visit www.sama-art.org.