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LORETTO MUSEUM EXHIBITION TO FEATURE “THE STRANGE AND WONDERFUL”

Loretto – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Loretto is pleased to announce the opening of its latest exhibition, *Flights of Fantasy: Visions of the Strange and Wonderful*. The exhibition, which features fifty works selected from the Museum’s permanent collection, opens April 6 and will remain on view through June 16.

Flights of Fantasy explores the many expressions of artistic imagination. Among the works on display are paintings, drawings, prints, photographs and sculpture with styles ranging from solid realism to the near-abstract. While the oldest piece on display, *A Concert of Birds*, was made in Europe some two centuries ago, much of the show is devoted to American art of recent times. Not surprisingly, the American love of humor and fantasy come to the fore, whether expressed in the whimsical Surrealism of local artists Jory Albright and Robin Grass or the disturbingly quirky *Painting This Painting* by Mark Rowley.

SAMA favorite Colleen Browning is represented with two of her most original Magic Realist canvases, *Face to Face* and *Uncertain Applause*. The exhibition also will feature Brian Connelly’s grandly mysterious panel paintings, *The Gates of Paradise* and *The Spectrum*, both of which are rooted in the exacting technique of the Flemish Old Masters. The exhibition also will include works by Charles Burchfield, Helen Gorsuch, John Hultberg, Peter Milton, Robert Rauschenberg, Shirley Zampelli Sturtz-Davis, Carol Wald and many others. Part of the Museum’s interesting collection of face jugs also will be on view.

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.

The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art receives state arts funding support through a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.