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SAMA-LIGONIER VALLEY TO HOST RETROSPECTIVE OF ACCLAIMED LOCAL ARTIST

Ligonier – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Ligonier Valley is pleased to announce the opening of its latest exhibition, *Retrospective: William M. Hoffman, Jr.* The exhibition features fifty-four oil, casein and watercolor paintings plus a pair of graphite-on-paper works spanning Hoffman’s sixty-two year career. *Retrospective: William M. Hoffman, Jr.* opens August 22 and will remain on view through November 9.

Most days, one can find Hoffman painting *en plein air* amongst the Ligonier countryside or Downtown Latrobe, capturing landmark architecture, farms with rolling hills or bubbling wooded streams. His Ligonier studio is full of work from past to present, each offering a palette full of rich color and tranquil beauty. Hoffman brings his subjects to life with an impressionistic style that seems to capture movement and energy with every brushstroke.

Featured in the exhibition is a selection of Hoffman’s most noted figure compositions, portraits and landscapes spanning a career working and painting in Latrobe, Ligonier, Philadelphia and Camden, New Jersey. Born in Blairsville in 1934, Hoffman was a professor of fine arts at Rutgers University from 1967 to 2000 and also chaired the University’s art department for more than fifteen years. In 2000, Hoffman retired in Ligonier where he lives and paints today. His breath-taking paintings have been exhibited nationally and internationally and are included in numerous private and public collections.

“This exhibition offers an opportunity to view a collection of work by a well-known and highly accomplished artist,” said SAMA-Ligonier Valley Coordinator Sommer Toffle. “Visitors will be able to see how Hoffman’s work has evolved throughout his life. I once asked an artist, ‘How long did it take you to complete this piece?’ He replied, ‘eighty-two years,’ which was the artist’s age at the time. This retrospective is a perfect example of the results of a lifetime of dedication to art.”

The Museum will celebrate the exhibition with an opening reception from 6 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, August 23. The exhibition is open to the public free of charge, though

reservations are requested. For reservations or additional information, please call the Museum at (724) 238-6015.

Hoffman will return to the Museum for a Lunch a l' Art program on Thursday, September 18. The program runs from noon until 2 p.m. and includes lunch and a presentation by the artist. Cost is \$15 per person or \$12 for SAMA members. Reservations are required by September 15 and can be made by calling the Museum.

The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Ligonier Valley is located at One Boucher and Route 711 South in Ligonier. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. weekends. The Museum is a handicapped-accessible facility and is open to the public free of charge. For more information, call the Museum or visit www.sama-art.org.