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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**LORETTO MUSEUM TO HOST *CONVERSATIONS WITH THE CURATOR*
PROGRAM**

Loretto – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Loretto’s new curatorial lecture series, *Conversations with the Curator: A Lecture-and-Lunch Series for Art Lovers and Collectors*, will continue on Thursday, December 5. The program will begin at 12:15 p.m. and includes a 45-minute talk by SAMA Curator for Visual Arts, Dr. V. Scott Dimond, as well as a box lunch. An informal Q&A period will follow.

The December program is titled “Temples Without Walls: American Landscape Painting and the Hudson River School.” For much of the nineteenth century, landscape painting dominated the art scene in the United States. Today, historians view the paintings of Thomas Cole, Frederic Church, Albert Bierstadt, and the other members of the so-called “Hudson River School” as being some of the most original and significant works produced by artists of that time. In this talk, Dr. Dimond will discuss the rise and decline of this first important American art movement and explore the deep meaning behind the spectacular paintings that it generated.

“These lectures are intended to be informative, yet informal and fun,” said Dimond. “There will be plenty of things to look at, as well as some ‘show-and-tell’ and opportunities for conversation. As I envision it, they will be a pleasant way to get a little art history under your belt, whether you are an artist, a collector, a teacher, or anyone who has an appreciation for visual culture.”

Cost for the *Conversations with the Curator* program is \$25 per lecture, which includes lunch. Please R.S.V.P. to (814) 472-3920 by December 2. The program will return in 2014 on March 13.

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.