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SAMA UNVEILS NEW CURATORIAL LECTURE SERIES

Loretto – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Loretto is introducing a new program this winter with the launch of *Conversations with the Curator: A Lecture-and-Lunch Series for Art Lovers and Collectors*. The series will take place on a quarterly basis, with the first lecture to be held on Thursday, March 14. The program will begin at 12:15 p.m. and will include a 45-minute talk by SAMA Curator for Visual Arts, Dr. Scott Dimond, as well as a box lunch. An informal Q&A period will follow.

“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 American visual culture.”

The March program is titled “Reading Them Like a Book: The Secret Language of Early American Portraits.” From colonial times until around the Civil War, painted portraits served as a primary means of conveying visual information about all sorts of people, whether high and mighty or humble and loveable. Ironically, what those people actually *looked* like was often less important than showing their particular place in society. Through the use of trappings, poses, gestures, and facial expressions, early portrait artists wove stories about their sitters that were easily “read” by their contemporaries. During the lecture, Dr. Dimond will decode this forgotten, “secret” language and uncover the rich and fascinating world of American portraiture.

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 March 11. Following programs will be held on June 13, September 12, and December 5.

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.