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## **ALTOONA EXHIBITION SHOWCASES MASTER PRINTMAKERS**

Altoona – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Altoona is pleased to announce the opening of *Twentieth Century Prints: Gifts of Allwyn and Ellen Levine*. On view January 20, 2012 through April 21, 2012 in the Museum's George A. and Herbert L. Wolf Gallery, the exhibition features 45 prints by important 20<sup>th</sup> Century printmakers such as Will Barnet, Leonard Baskin, Jim Dine, Jane Freilicher, Nancy Graves, Peter Milton, Philip Pearlstein, and Fairfield Porter, among others. The majority of works in the exhibition consists of large prints, both in black and white and vibrant colors. The prints were donated to the Museum in 2000 and 2004 by Allwyn and Ellen Levine.

Before the printing press, printmaking was used as a form of communication and was not considered an art form. It was not until the 18<sup>th</sup> century that it began to be recognized for the art form it is today. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, artists began to produce limited editions of their prints; by the next century, it had become a predominant art form. During this period, Pablo Picasso made more than a thousand prints in the form of etchings, drypoints, engravings, woodcuts, linocuts and lithographs. Today, printmaking is still considered an important trend in the art world.

“This collection of prints donated by Allwyn and Ellen Levine includes major artists of the ‘70s and ‘80s - what we would refer to as the post-abstract era - as well as many important pop artists,” said SAMA-Altoona Coordinator, Barbara Hollander. “This diverse group of prints is sure to provide a smorgasbord of cultural delights.”

The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Altoona is located in the Brett Building at 1210 Eleventh Avenue. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturdays. The Museum is a handicapped-accessible facility and is open to the public free of charge. Parking is available in the garage across the street or in metered spots in the lot at the rear of the building. For more information, call the Museum or visit [www.sama-art.org](http://www.sama-art.org).

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