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LIGONIER VALLEY MUSEUM TO OFFER PITTSBURGH NATIVE'S LANDSCAPES PAINTINGS

Ligonier – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Ligonier Valley is pleased to announce the opening of its latest exhibition, *Linda Arnold: Visions of the Natural World*. Opening April 29, the exhibition features 44 of Arnold's abstract landscape oil paintings. The exhibition will remain on view through August 7.

A native of Pittsburgh now residing in New York City, Arnold is a landscape painter whose recent work captures the unique dynamics between representation and abstraction. Self-described as a "plein air painter in the Impressionistic tradition," Arnold's landscapes evoke an emotional response to her unique representations of beaches, sunsets, forests and gardens. While her paintings distill landscapes down to their essence, she retains certain elements, such as the horizon line, to give herself the freedom to push the boundaries of color and design.

Arnold has painted in numerous locations throughout the United States, Europe and South America, and was chosen as the 2011 Andy Warhol Artist in Residence, an award given to an artist to pursue artistic endeavors at the Andy Warhol Preserve in Montauk, Long Island. Arnold has a B.A. from Northwestern University and M.A. from University of Michigan, and also has studied at The Art Students League of New York, The National Academy School of Fine Art and Plein Air Painters of America Workshops. Her work is held in many private and public collections in the U.S. and Europe.

"The titles of Linda Arnold's paintings fittingly take on musically inspired themes like *Seaside Staccato* and *Refrain* as her paintings could very well be pieces of music captured on canvas," said SAMA-Ligonier Valley Coordinator Emma Noonan. "At times, her work is larger than life with some pieces measuring in at 60" x 80", while her more intimate paintings can be as small as 8" x 10"."

The Museum will celebrate the exhibition with an opening reception on Friday, May 6. Arnold will be in attendance to meet with guests and discuss her work on view. The reception, scheduled for 6 to 8 p.m., is open to the public free of charge. Reservations are requested by May 2 by calling the Museum at (724) 238-6015.

Arnold also will be present at the Museum's fifteenth annual Garden Party, "The Art of Golf," on May 21. The event will feature live and silent auctions, golfing activities, live music, games of chance and gourmet cuisine by Vallozzi's. Tickets are \$125 per person. For more information on the Garden Party, please call the Museum.

The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Ligonier Valley is located at One Boucher Lane 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.