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PITTSBURGH ARTIST TO SPEAK AT LIGONIER VALLEY MUSEUM

Ligonier – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Ligonier Valley will host a Lunch a l'Art program with painter Benjamin Thomas on Thursday, September 10. The program, which begins at noon, includes lunch and a presentation by the artist. Cost is \$15 or \$12 for SAMA members. Reservations are requested by September 4 and can be made by calling the Museum at (724) 238-6015.

Thomas is a native of Pittsburgh, where he has taught art for 34 years while painting from his home studio. Since 2008, Thomas's works have shown in select galleries and museums, including SAMA, the Westmoreland Museum of American Art, the Hoyt Institute of Fine Arts, Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, Sweetwater Center for the Arts, and the Butler Institute of American Art. His work also is included in the collection of the Greater Latrobe School District Art Conservation Trust. Thomas is the featured artist for the 2015 summer issue of *The Gettysburg Review*, and a selection of his works are presently showcased at the Pittsburgh International Airport through the summer and fall of 2015.

Prior to the lunch program will be a meeting of the SAMA Auxiliary at 11 a.m. The Auxiliary is always welcoming new members. If you are interested in joining the Auxiliary, please attend the meeting or call the Museum for further information.

Lunch a l'Art programs are offered to encourage a greater understanding of various art forms and movements, as well as foster a deeper appreciation for the exhibitions presented by 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.