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**LANDSCAPE ARTIST TO SPEAK AT SAMA-LIGONIER VALLEY
LUNCH PROGRAM**

Ligonier – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Ligonier Valley will host a Lunch a l'Art program with landscape painter Rita Haldeman on Thursday, November 3. 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 October 28 by calling the Museum at (724) 238-6015.

Haldeman, from Jeannette, will discuss her career as an artist, which includes painting in the studio as well as outdoors. A rostered artist with SAMA and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, Haldeman is an accomplished artist whose work is highly collected and has been shown in galleries and museums throughout Pennsylvania. Her work was on view at SAMA last spring in the *Pastel Expressions* exhibition and the solo exhibition, *Seasons of the Landscape*, in 2011. She has a B.A. from Penn State University and has studied at the Vermont Studio School and Colony and the Cape School of Art in Cape Cod. She has received a number of major awards, including First Prize at the Three Rivers Arts Festival in Pittsburgh, First Prize in the St. Vincent College Monastery Run Competition, and the Landscape Award at the Arts for the Parks exhibition in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. She spent much of this summer painting on location in Maine, Delaware and on Chincoteague Island.

Prior to lunch will be a meeting of the SAMA Auxiliary at 11 a.m. 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.