

June 7, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SAMA TEACHING ARTIST TO EXHIBIT WORKS AT LORETTO MUSEUM

Loretto – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Loretto is pleased to announce the opening of its latest exhibition, *Fabricating Whimsy: Musings of Martha McKinley Murphy*. The exhibition opens June 17 and will remain on view through October 15.

Originally from Ligonier, Murphy has been one of SAMA's teaching artists since the inception of the Museum's Arts-in-Education partnership with the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts 18 years ago. Murphy's highly requested school residencies feature color studies using warm and cool palettes, exercises in painting upside-down, and large murals that provide every student an opportunity to create.

Fabricating Whimsy features nearly 50 works including paintings, metal sculptures, ceramic tile art, and illustrations for children's books. An adjunct professor at Brunswick Community College in North Carolina, Murphy is represented by 35 galleries throughout the United States, Canada and the Virgin Islands.

"Martha Murphy is an artist, teacher, inspiration, role model and friend," said Jessica Campbell, SAMA Education Coordinator. "Her life's work is to educate and inspire others with her creative genius. Her positive energy and attitude are reflected in the beauty of her work through her use of fun, whimsical characters. Martha seeks the beauty in everything she creates and touches. From her art work to her residency work, she leaves impressions that will encourage and inspire others."

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. Saturdays. The Museum is open to the public free of charge. For more information, please call (814) 472-3920 or visit www.sama-art.org.