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LORETTO MUSEUM TO HOST 2ND ANNUAL NIGHT OF DISTINCTION PROGRAM

Loretto – It is fitting that when the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Loretto hosts its second annual *Night of Distinction* program on April 20 that the featured exhibition will be *Seeing the Big Picture*. The exhibition highlights larger-than-life works from the Museum's permanent collection, while at *Night of Distinction* the Museum will honor the larger-than-life contributions of the Wolf-Kuhn Foundation, an organization that has been instrumental in building SAMA's collection of more than 4,000 works of art.

Night of Distinction is a special dinner event designed to celebrate some of the Museum's most dedicated and longest-serving benefactors. This year's event is scheduled for Saturday, April 20, and will include the presentation of the Museum's Service to the Arts Award to the Wolf-Kuhn Foundation.

Established in 1957, the Wolf-Kuhn Foundation has been a steadfast supporter of the Museum dating back to SAMA's early years. The organization has sponsored exhibitions and programs, funded conservation initiatives, contributed to art acquisitions, and also partnered with the Museum in 1979 to open the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Altoona. The Foundation also has made major contributions to other arts and education organizations, including the Mishler Theatre, Altoona Symphony Orchestra, Hollidaysburg Area Public Library, and numerous schools.

During the event, the Museum also will unveil a small collection of paperweights by leading artists and glass manufacturers purchased in memory of late trustee Elizabeth Gamble. In 1992, Gamble donated to SAMA the Walter Carlyle Shaw Paperweight Collection, an assortment of 169 historical and contemporary paperweights that is on permanent display at SAMA's Ligonier Valley Museum.

Also being acknowledged during *Night of Distinction* is a group of eight artists: Patrick Adachi of Altoona, Adrienne Heinrich of Murrysville, Jan Kinney of Altoona, Lynne Magee of Altoona, Tom McCarty of Lilly, Martha Murphy of Friedens, Sue Pollins of Greensburg, and Harriet Rosenberg of Boalsburg. Each of the artists has been

associated with SAMA's Art-in-Education program since the inception of the Museum's partnership with the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts fifteen years ago.

SAMA's *Night of Distinction* is scheduled for 6 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, April 20. The event will begin with a cocktail reception and will be followed by dinner and awards presentation. Cost is \$80 per person. Please call the Museum at (814) 472-3920 for reservations or additional information. Seating is limited at 200.

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. Saturday. 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.