

March 8, 2017

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### **EXHIBITING ARTIST TO SPEAK AT ALTOONA MUSEUM**

Altoona – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Altoona will host a Lunch a l' Art with exhibiting artist Chuck Olson on Wednesday, April 5. The program begins at noon and includes lunch and a presentation by the artist. Cost is \$15 or \$14 for SAMA members. Reservations are required by calling the Museum at (814) 946-4464.

Currently on view at the Museum is *The Influence of Place: Recent Work in Lithography, Collage and Painting by Chuck Olson*. Featuring 40 works, the exhibition represents a pause in the life of the artist to reflect on his recent experiences and the important influence of places and cultures visited. Over the past 18 months, Olson has been working in three mediums: lithography, collage and painting. Each of these is influenced by the sense of place and the way in which memory acts on the artist within the isolation of the studio. For Olson, Italy, France, Bermuda and Texas form a unique rectangle from which the work in this exhibition is a reaction affected by the experience of these diverse places.

Olson is renowned worldwide for his artistic talent and creativity. His work has been featured in dozens of solo exhibitions throughout the United States and Europe, in addition to more than 100 group shows around the globe. His impact is significant in the area, where for approximately 40 years he has been Professor of Art and Chairman of the Fine Arts Department at Saint Francis University. Among his many awards and recognitions are Indiana University of Pennsylvania Distinguished Alumni status and Pittsburgh Magazine and WQED-TV's Harry Schwalb Award of Excellence in Visual Art. Most recently, he was awarded the status of Master Visual Artist for Pittsburgh in 2013 with an exhibition at the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts and received SAMA's Service to the Arts award in 2015.

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

The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Altoona is located in the Brett Building at 1210 Eleventh Avenue. 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. Parking is available in the garage across the street or in metered spots in the lot at the rear of the building. For more information, call the Museum or visit [www.sama-art.org](http://www.sama-art.org).