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SAMA TO HOLD PAINTING CONTEST AS PART OF ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Ligonier – As part of its 20th anniversary celebration, the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Ligonier Valley will host the plein air painting contest, *Paint Us*. Modeled after the Museum's popular annual plein air *Paint Out*, the *Paint Us* contest invites artists of all ages to paint, *en plein air*, the Museum, its grounds, and its gardens.

The contest begins in January, as artists are invited to paint the Museum throughout the seasons. Artists are even invited to paint the Museum's interior, although interested parties would need to schedule in advance.

The paintings will be exhibited at an open house family day event on September 9. Prior to the exhibition, the artwork will be judged and prizes will be awarded in three separate age groups. Adult artists aged 18 and older will vie for three awards: First Place (\$300), Second Place (\$200) and Third Place (\$100). Young artists aged 10-17 will compete for First Place (\$150) and Second Place (\$75) awards. Children 9 and under also are invited to participate, with awards for First Place (\$50) and Second Place (\$25). The works will be made available to the public in a silent auction during the family day event, with the Museum retaining 25% of the auction price.

Cost to participate in the *Paint Us* contest is \$30 for adults, \$20 for the 10-17 age bracket, and \$10 for ages 9 and under. Artists may submit up to three works. All paintings must be completed and delivered to the Museum by August 31. For registration or additional information, please call the Museum at (724) 238-6015.

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.