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LORETTO MUSEUM TO OFFER RARE EXHIBITION OF PASTEL WORKS

Loretto – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Loretto is pleased to announce the opening of *Like the Wings of Butterflies: The Fragile and Gorgeous Art of Pastel*. On view February 10 through April 14, the exhibition offers an intimate look at nearly three dozen seldom-exhibited works.

Invented during the Renaissance and popularized from the eighteenth century onward, pastel is one of the most beautiful, yet most fragile of art media. Because it utilizes pure pigment with relatively little binder, pastel is at once brilliant and exceedingly delicate. Works in pastel must be framed behind glass and moved with great care, lest the colors be inadvertently wiped or shaken off the paper.

Over the years, SAMA has acquired many fine examples of the pastellist's art. However, for reasons of careful stewardship, the Museum seldom places them on view. This exhibition represents a rare opportunity to see the majority of SAMA's pastel holdings together in one place. Among the works on display are a pair of late eighteenth-century portraits by British-American artist James Sharples, famous for his rendition of George Washington. Pennsylvania Impressionist Milton Herbert Bancroft makes an appearance with a documentary view made in wartime France. SAMA favorite Colleen Browning contributes several figure studies showing her considerable proficiency in the pastel medium. Add to this works by recognized contemporary masters such as Gil Dellinger, Arny Karl, and Theodore Lukits, and you have an exhibition of admirable diversity as well as beauty.

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 the Museum at (814) 472-3920 or visit www.sama-art.org.