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JOHNSTOWN EXHIBITION TO HIGHLIGHT ABSTRACT WORKS

Johnstown – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Johnstown is pleased to announce its latest exhibition, *Projections on Paper: Abstract Prints and Drawings from the Permanent Collection*. The exhibition opens June 12 and will remain on view through August 21.

Mention abstract art and most people think of wall-sized paintings in oil or acrylic. However, this exhibition of more than thirty prints and drawings reveals that abstraction is also well represented in the graphic media. As artists have discovered, lithographic and screenprinting processes can result in powerful statements that hold the room as well as any large canvas. Pastel and charcoal are equally suited to capturing the vital gestures of classic Action Painting. At the same time, etching and drawing allow for a range of delicate effects that goes beyond what can be achieved with a paintbrush. In sum, the graphic media effectively complement and extend the possibilities afforded by abstraction in painting.

Drawn from SAMA's permanent collection, *Projections on Paper* features noted artists working in a variety of abstract styles. The subtle calculations of color theorist Josef Albers appear alongside the exuberantly playful forms of Alexander Calder. Marko Spalatin essays a series of mathematically complex Op Art compositions while Helen Frankenthaler delves into the personal, mysterious, and evocative. With machine-like precision, Ilya Bolotowsky recalls the geometric abstraction of the 1920s and 1930s. Sam Francis, Robert Indiana and others put forward their own visions, which together result in a fine survey of abstract styles and approaches. For the lover of abstract art, *Projections on Paper* promises a feast for the eyes.

The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Johnstown is located in the Pasquerilla Performing Arts Center on the campus of the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. Hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Museum is a handicapped-accessible facility and is open to the public free of charge. For more information, please call the Museum at (814) 269-7234 or visit www.sama-art.org.