

November 5, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact:

Dr. Scott Dimond, Curator for Visual Arts

(207) 504-7651

Travis Mearns, Public Relations Coordinator

(724) 238-6015

LORETTO MUSEUM TO HOST RECEPTION, BEER TASTING

Loretto – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Loretto will celebrate its exhibiting artists with a reception next month. *Pub & Paints: A Reception in Honor of Will Espey and Cynthia Nixon* will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday, December 4. The reception will include hors d'oeuvres and a beer tasting featuring a variety of seasonal brews. Live music will be performed by The Amigos. Cost is \$25 per person or \$22 for SAMA members. Reservations are required by December 1 by calling the Museum at (814) 472-3920.

On view at the Museum through January 23 is *Cynthia Nixon: Lighthouse and Will Espey: Sovereign*. *Lighthouse* comprises 19 paintings, drawings and mixed-media works by State College artist Cynthia Nixon. From her beginnings in the 1970s as a feminist pioneer, Nixon has gone on to explore issues of family and environment through the lens of art history and creative reinterpretation. Combining ancient approaches to art with space-age materials and modern subjectivity, her compositions are curiously arresting.

In *Sovereign*, Ebensburg artist Will Espey explores issues of heritage, identity and shared human experience. The exhibition features 30 of the artist's unique painted and mixed-media compositions, which are set in elaborate frames made of birch bark, porcupine quills and other traditional materials. Suggestive of dreamlike inner visions, the artist's work boasts rainbow colors and scintillating textures that leave the viewer feeling inexplicably uplifted.

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 or visit www.sama-art.org.