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ALTOONA MUSEUM TO DISPLAY LOCAL ARTIST'S PET PAINTINGS

Altoona – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Altoona is pleased to announce the opening of its latest exhibition, *Rachel DiAndrea: Dog and Pony Show*. On view April 18 through August 2 in the Museum's George A. and Herbert T. Wolf Gallery, the exhibition features forty pet portraits in pastel, graphite and watercolor and is a must-see for any pet lover.

DiAndrea is an award-winning local artist who is renowned for her ability to capture the unique personality of her furry subjects. She is established as a premier national canine illustrator whose love for animals is evident throughout her work. Her subjects immediately engage the viewer with the enthusiastic and colorful interpretations for which her work has become nationally and internationally recognized.

A resident of Altoona, DiAndrea graduated from the State University of New York at Buffalo with a degree in communication design and has forged a successful career in the printing industry in addition to her artistic endeavors. She has won awards for four consecutive years at the prestigious Art Show at the Dog Show, a national juried fine arts competition dedicated to canine art in Wichita, Kansas. She recently released her first book, *The Art of Being a Pet*. The book is a gallery collection of fine art illustrations and describes pets in a rhyming, whimsical style that is fun for all ages. For more information, visit the artist's website at www.PetArtStudios.com.

"Rachel DiAndrea wears many hats in our community: in the workplace, the non-profit world, as a wife and mother, and as an entrepreneur. She is an accomplished individual as is, but factor in her art and she ascends to another level," said SAMA-Altoona Coordinator Barbara Hollander. "Her passion for our four-legged friends makes her animal portraits personal and important. She is able to capture the unique personality of her subjects, much to the joy and amazement of their owners and the viewing public."

The Museum will celebrate the exhibition at a Blue Monday on May 5. The program includes light supper and libations while guests enjoy traditional bluegrass

music by Mt. City Grass. Cost is \$20 per person. Please call the Museum at (814) 946-4464 for reservations.

DiAndrea will speak at a Lunch a l' Art program at the Museum on June 18. The program, which begins at noon, will include lunch and a presentation by the artist. Cost is \$15 per person or \$14 for SAMA members. Please call the Museum for reservations.

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.