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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VINTAGE RAILROAD PHOTOGRAPHS TO BE EXHIBITED AT SAMA-ALTOONA

Altoona – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Altoona is pleased to announce the opening of its latest exhibition, *William H. Rau: Openings – Urban, Rural, Rail*. On view May 19 through September 9, the exhibition features nearly 30 albumen and sepia-toned photographs by Rau, the official photographer of the Pennsylvania Railroad at the turn of the 20th century, from the Altoona Area Public Library Collection, as well as four works by contemporary photographer Michael Froio. The exhibition was curated by Julie Fether, lecturer in history at Penn State-Altoona and co-curator of *William H. Rau: The Rise and Fall of the Main Line Canal* (2015).

Openings – Urban, Rural, Rail takes the viewer on a photographic trip with Rau, who shows us various environmental landscapes along the Pennsylvania Railroad from various Divisions. In this exhibition, hidden worlds become exposed *openings* – a late nineteenth century term which describes the landscape and landscape photography. Rau’s photographs showcase these *openings* in which the railroad makes itself known – or unknown. Impacting both urban and rural settings, the rails speak visually stunning volumes, echoing the industrial past.

Today these photographs are testament to the emergence of photography used to promote travel and tourism. Attracting the young and old, rich and poor, to the glamour of railroad travel, the rails provided an opportunity to participate in the power of acute observation from the window of a passenger car and experience new communities along the way. Adding to the exhibition experience of *Openings – Urban, Rural, Rail* will be the writings of John Stilgoe, the Robert and Lois Orchard Professor of the History of Landscape Development at Harvard University, and others on the art and practice of “seeing” landscape.

Complementing the Rau photographs will be a series of contemporary black-and-white photographs of what is today the Norfolk Southern Railway by photographer Michael Froio, photography and adjunct instructor at Drexel University’s Westphal College of Media Arts & Design. Froio’s work, “From the Mainline” – an homage to Rau - exemplifies the timelessness of Rau’s photographic legacy.

The Museum will host a William H. Rau Symposium from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on August 16 to discuss the impact and legacy of Rau’s landmark railroad photography. Fether and Froio will speak at the event. Cost for the program is \$15 per person or \$14 for SAMA members,

which includes lunch. For reservations or additional information, please contact the Museum at (814) 946-4464 or altoona@sama-art.org.

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.