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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **SAMA TO MOUNT MAJOR EXHIBITION BY LORETTO NATIVE RON DONOUGHE**

Loretto – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Loretto is pleased to announce the opening of *Labor and Landscape: 100 Paintings of the Allegheny Mountain Region by Ron Donoughe*. The exhibition opens April 21 and will remain on view through June 10.

A native son of Cambria County and Loretto, Donoughe wanted to dig deeper into the places he calls home. He did so by visiting many businesses, farms and even the county fair. Asking permission to paint on private premises and at many area businesses and industries, he was given personal tours of steel mills, a pretzel factory and even a taxidermy school, to name just a few. His idea was explore curiously, with a paintbrush in hand.

Most of Donoughe's paintings were done *en plein air*, which simply means they were painted on location in front of the subject. Because some environments were simply too dangerous for an artist to set up an easel, he also worked in his studio from his own photographs. For Donoughe, it was important to interact with the people he met along the way. Such encounters, along with his privileged access, gave him unique insights into his subjects. The resulting paintings offer a delightfully fresh look at many local subjects that we might otherwise take for granted.

Donoughe, who presently resides in the Lawrenceville section of Pittsburgh, has been painting the Western Pennsylvania landscape for 30 years. He is a graduate of Indiana University of Pennsylvania, with additional studies at the California College of Arts & Crafts in Oakland, California, and workshops with the Plein-Air Painters of America. He is a recipient of the Bottle Works Ethnic Arts Center's Hall of Fame and is a Distinguished Alumnus of IUP. His work can be found in many private and permanent collections, including those of SAMA, The Heinz History Center, the Museum of Indiana University of Pennsylvania, the Westmoreland Museum of American Art, and The Duquesne Club. He is a member of the Associated Artists of Pittsburgh and is founder of The Plein Air Painters of Western Pennsylvania. He has published three books chronicling his work, including *90 Pittsburgh Neighborhoods*.

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. Saturday. The Museum is open to the public free of charge. For more information, call the Museum at (814) 472-3920 or visit [www.sama-art.org](http://www.sama-art.org).