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SAMA-LORETTO EXHIBITION SHOWCASES RELIGIOUS WORKS

Loretto – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Loretto is pleased to announce the opening of its latest exhibition, *Seeing and Believing: Art Encounters Faith*. In the exhibition, the dialogue between art and religion comes to life in the Museum's collection of paintings, drawings, prints and photographs. Although much of the material centers on Christianity, other beliefs also are represented, including Judaism, Buddhism, and Native American spirituality. *Seeing and Believing* opens May 18 and will remain on view through December 8.

Art has served religion since prehistoric times. Bringing dogma to life and giving form to holy figures, it has provided believers with a vital connection to the tenets of their faith. In the West, the Christian Church was a major patron of artists for nearly two millennia. However, with the advent of modernism in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, once sacrosanct notions about faith began to be questioned. Standard ways of picturing religious subjects underwent a process of rethinking, and as both theologians and laity began to reformulate certain aspects of religion, artists followed suit.

Seeing and Believing explores a variety of religious imagery, from orthodox depictions of saints made centuries ago to the affectionately tongue-in-cheek Bible scenes of Adolf Dehn. The exhibition also includes Fred Holland Day's *The Seven Last Words of Christ* series, as well as works by Mario Castillo, Edward Curtis, William D. Davis, Martin Lewis, Ira Moskowitz, and Ben Stahl, among others.

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 or visit www.sama-art.org.

The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art receives state arts funding support through a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.