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ALTOONA ARTIST'S CITY SCENES ON VIEW AT SAMA-JOHNSTOWN

Johnstown – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Johnstown is pleased to announce its latest exhibition, *Susan Severson: City of Dreams*. The 25 paintings on display are from the Museum's permanent collection and survey the artist's work from the mid-1970s to the late 1990s. *Susan Severson: City of Dreams* opens June 10 and will remain on view through August 5.

Featuring scenes taken from the artist's many years as a resident of New York City, the oil paintings in this exhibition depict a variety of subjects ranging from early morning views in Chinatown to sidewalk cafes to subway work stations. On the streets, in the shops and restaurants, there are people of every description going about their lives. They are, for the most part, silent and disconnected, each intent on his or her own individual doings. Yet Severson's city is hardly the lonely wasteland of an Edward Hopper. Rather, it is a curiously lyrical vision that will reward extended contemplation.

"The urban streetscapes of Susan Severson are remarkable for their dreamlike quality," said SAMA Curator Dr. Scott Dimond. "Although the neighborhoods Severson depicts are colorful and gritty, the people who occupy them are curiously pensive. They occupy their own private worlds, shifting the viewer's attention toward inner states, mood and emotion. At the same time, the artist's focus on reflected images lends a surreal quality to her canvases, leading the viewer to question what is real and what is illusion."

A graduate of New York's Trinity College, Severson went on to earn an M.F.A. at Brooklyn College. In addition, she attended courses at the Art Students League of New York and the Brooklyn Museum Art School, with noted painters Philip Pearlstein and George Tooker among her instructors. In later years, Severson made her home in Altoona, showing her paintings and regularly participating in the regional art scene. Over the course of her career, she has had 28 solo exhibitions in various venues. Her work is held in more than 100 private and public collections throughout the U.S.

The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Johnstown is located in the Pasquerilla Performing Arts Center on the campus of the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. Hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The

Museum is a handicapped-accessible facility and is open to the public free of charge. For more information, please call the Museum at (814-269-7234 or visit www.sama-art.org.