

November 22, 2015

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**AWARD RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED FOR SOUTHWESTERN  
PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS ANNUAL EXHIBITION**

Ligonier – Prizes have been announced and awarded for the *Southwestern Pennsylvania Council for the Arts 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Regional Juried Art Exhibition*, currently on view through February 7 at the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Ligonier Valley. The exhibition features 64 works by 64 artists from many of the region’s most talented artists.

First prize was awarded to Robert L. Bowden of Pittsburgh for his oil-on-canvas painting, *View from Paul’s Deck*. Second prize went to Alexis Dillon of Greensburg, while Kevin O’Toole of South Greensburg took Third Prize. Suzanne Andrews of Greensburg won the Critic’s Choice Award, selected by Kurt Shaw, Trib Total Media art critic, and the late David DiPietro received the Award of Excellence for a Realistic/Impressionistic Painting. Awards of Merit were given to Duncan Everhart of Alum Bank, Maura Koehler Keeney of Latrobe, Marian Sallade of Pittsburgh, and W. Benjamin Thomas of Pittsburgh.

Serving as selections juror was Paul Dusold. An acclaimed artist from Philadelphia, Dusold has taught at museums and art centers throughout the Philadelphia area. Awards jurying was by Pittsburgh artist Ron Donoughe. The artist is best known for his spirited, realistic landscape paintings of Western Pennsylvania.

The *Southwestern Pennsylvania Council for the Arts 20th Annual Regional Juried Art Exhibition* includes work in media such as acrylic, oil, photography, watercolor, wood, metal, and many others. Artists from the group’s 19 county service region contributed to make this one of the Council’s strongest showings to date. The group held its first exhibition in 1996 in an effort to promote and support visual artists living within Southwestern Pennsylvania. Since then, the exhibition has become known for its freshness and energy in the art of emerging artists, and for the dazzling presentations of established artists who are developing a new direction with their art.

The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Ligonier Valley is located at One Boucher Lane and Route 711 South in Ligonier. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. weekends. The Museum is a handicapped-

accessible facility and is open to the public free of charge. For more information, call the Museum or visit [www.sama-art.org](http://www.sama-art.org).