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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 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Regional Juried Art Exhibition*, currently on view through February 8 at the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Ligonier Valley. The exhibition features 66 works in a variety of media created by 66 of the region's most acclaimed and talented artists.

First prize was awarded to Maura Koehler Keeney of Latrobe for her oil-on-canvas painting, *The Revelation*. Second Prize went to Diana Williams of New Florence, while Larry Mallory of Glen Campbell took Third Prize. Benjamin Thomas of Pittsburgh took the Critic's Choice Award, selected by Kurt Shaw, Trib Total Media art critic, and Xan Mayer of New Alexandria received the Award of Excellence for a Realistic/Impressionistic Painting. Awards of Merit were given to David DiPietro of Uniontown, Dave Hammaker of East Freedom, Pat Majcher of Greensburg, and Paul McMillan of Pittsburgh.

Serving as juror was Susan B. Howard. A native of Philadelphia, Howard earned an MFA from the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. Her oil paintings have been exhibited worldwide in solo and group shows and are featured in the book, *100 Artists of the Mid-Atlantic* (Schiffer Publishing, Ltd.).

The *Southwestern Pennsylvania Council for the Arts 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Regional Juried Art Exhibition* includes work in media such as acrylic, oil, photography, mosaic, wood, fiber, 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 at (724) 238-6015 or visit [www.sama-art.org](http://www.sama-art.org).