

January 24, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact:

Jessica Campbell, Education Coordinator

(814) 472-3920

Travis Mearns, Public Relations Coordinator

(724) 238-6015

STUDENT ART EXHIBITION RETURNS TO SAMA MUSEUMS

Loretto – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art will continue its tradition of celebrating the area’s talented young artists with the return of *Artists of the 21st Century*, the Museum’s annual student art exhibition. More than 250 student-created works will be featured in the dual exhibition. *Artists of the 21st Century* will be on view at SAMA-Loretto from February 7 through April 12 and at SAMA-Ligonier Valley from February 21 through April 17.

The exhibition, held in conjunction with National Youth Art Month and the State Arts-in-Education Month, is open to schools that participate in SAMA’s Museum/School Partnership Program. Through the program, SAMA educators travel to public and parochial schools to provide Arts-in-Education programs designed to enhance students’ understanding of art creation, technique, history, criticism and aesthetics. The award-winning program is the largest of its kind in the Commonwealth.

Nearly 300 students will be represented in the exhibition. Schools in Westmoreland and Fayette counties will be exhibited at SAMA-Ligonier Valley, while schools in Bedford, Blair, Cambria, and Somerset counties will be featured in the Loretto exhibition.

Each Museum will hold an opening reception to celebrate the exhibition and the region’s student artists. The SAMA-Loretto reception will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, February 15. SAMA-Ligonier Valley’s reception is scheduled for 1 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 2. Please note that parking for the Ligonier Valley reception is available at Fort Ligonier only, with free shuttles running to and from the Museum. The receptions are open to the public, but the Museum suggests a donation of \$1 per person in support of the exhibition.

SAMA Education Coordinator Jessica Campbell said the student art show, now in its sixteenth year, is a special program for young artists. “This exhibition has become a favorite of mine,” she said. “Unpacking, arranging and hanging the art is like going on an adventure. It’s exciting to see what each school is creating and to see the pride and accomplishment in the faces of the students. It’s so encouraging to attend the opening receptions, which are always crowded and filled with joy as each student looks to find

their masterpiece. I welcome everyone to come out and see the priceless works of art created by the talented youth in our area.”

In total, 15 districts and 31 schools are participating in the exhibition. Each district is permitted to submit up to 20 individual projects and one group project. Schools represented in the Loretto exhibition include: Altoona Area High School; Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School; Bishop McCort High School; Blacklick Valley Elementary and Junior Senior High schools; Cambria Heights Elementary School; Claysburg-Kimmel Elementary School; East Side Elementary School; Forest Hills Middle and High schools; Jackson Elementary School; Penn Cambria Primary, Intermediate, Middle and High schools; Portage Area Elementary and High schools; and St. Michael School.

Schools participating in the SAMA-Ligonier Valley exhibition include: Baggaley Elementary School, Fort Allen Elementary School, Greater Latrobe Junior High and Senior High schools, Greensburg Salem Middle and High schools, Hempfield Area Senior High School, Latrobe Elementary School, Maxwell Elementary School, Mountain View Elementary School, Stanwood Elementary School, Valley School of Ligonier, and Wendover Middle School.

Each of the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art’s four locations – Altoona, Johnstown, Ligonier Valley and Loretto – is open to the public free of charge. Hours of operation at SAMA-Ligonier Valley are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. weekends. SAMA-Loretto’s operating hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturdays. For more information, visit www.sama-art.org or call Jessica Campbell, Education Coordinator, at (814) 472-3920.

This project was made possible through the AIE Partnership of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency. State government funding for the arts depends upon an annual appropriation by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and support from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. The PCA Arts-in-Education Partner in this region is the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art.