

November 19, 2011

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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 16th Annual Regional Juried Art Exhibition*, currently on view through February 11 at the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Ligonier Valley. The exhibition features 75 works in a variety of media created by 75 of the area's most acclaimed and talented artists.

Best of Show honors were given to David A. DiPietro of Uniontown for his oil on canvas, *PA Storm*. Second Prize was awarded to Maura Koehler Keeney of Latrobe, while Duncan Everhart of Alum Bank took Third Prize and Eileen Potter Kopelman of New Kensington won Fourth Prize. An Award of Excellence in Photography was given to Richard A. Stoner of Latrobe. Other honors included five Awards of Merit, given to Ron Donoughe of Pittsburgh, William M. Hoffman, Jr. of Ligonier, Kate Holterhoff of Pittsburgh, Calvin Lynch of Confluence, and Paul Sirofchuck of Ligonier.

Serving as exhibition juror was William Mammarella. An award-winning artist who has exhibited his work extensively, Mammarella has taught at the college level for more than 14 years and is currently on the faculty of the Pennsylvania College of Art and Design in Lancaster. He has a B.A. from Rutgers University and an M.F.A. from the University of Delaware.

The Council's 16th Annual Exhibition includes work in media such as oil, acrylic, watercolor, metal, pastel, wood, clay, bronze, and photography. Artists from throughout the group's 19 county service region - Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Bedford, Blair, Butler, Cambria, Clarion, Clearfield, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Jefferson, Lawrence, Mercer, Somerset, Venango, Washington and Westmoreland counties – 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.

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.