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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 17th Annual Regional Juried Art Exhibition*, currently on view through February 10 at the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Ligonier Valley. The exhibition features 73 works in a variety of media created by 73 of the area's most acclaimed and talented artists.

First Prize was claimed by Richard S. McWherter of Derry for his photographic print, *Carolina Morning*. Second Prize was awarded to John Ritter of Ligonier, while Hsiao Busch of Plumville took Third Prize. Awards of Excellence were given to Skip Allen of Ligonier and Mary Dunn of West Mifflin. Other honors included six Awards of Merit, given to Suzanne Andrews of Greensburg, Anne Clark of Ligonier, Doreen Currie of Latrobe, William M. Hoffman, Jr. of Ligonier, Carol McCray of Laughlintown, and Ceres M. Rangos of Pittsburgh.

Serving as exhibition juror was Dr. Roberta K. Tarbell, Adjunct Associate Professor in the College of Arts & Sciences at the University of Delaware. Tarbell has a B.S. from Cornell University and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Delaware. A former chair of the fine arts department at Rutgers University, Tarbell is currently the first Visiting Scholar at the Philadelphia Museum of Art and was co-curator for the exhibition, *Rodin and America*.

The Council's 17th Annual Exhibition includes work in media such as oil, acrylic, pastel, wood, clay, and photography, among others. 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.

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.