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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 18th Annual Regional Juried Art Exhibition*, currently on view through February 9 at the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Ligonier Valley. The exhibition features 71 works in a variety of media created by 71 of the area's most acclaimed and talented artists.

First Prize was claimed by Maura Koehler Keeney of Latrobe for her oil-on-canvas painting, *Abounding Exuberance*. Second Prize was awarded to Larry Mallory of Glen Campbell, while Anne Dougherty of Johnstown took Third Prize. Awards of Merit were given to Kathleen Kase Burk of Ebensburg, Doreen Currie of Latrobe, Robert Grass of Everett, Keith T. Hileman of Clarion, Suzanne Kapusta of Greensburg, and Benjamin Thomas of Pittsburgh.

Serving as exhibition juror was Fred Danziger. A long-time faculty member at The Art Institute of Philadelphia, Danziger has been represented by galleries in Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, and New York City. His work has been featured in numerous solo and group exhibitions and is included in the collections of the Philadelphia Museum of Art; The State Museum, Harrisburg, PA; Wichita Art Museum in Wichita, KS; Woodmere Art Museum, Philadelphia; The Consol Energy Center in Pittsburgh; and Allegheny General Hospital, among others.

The Council's 18th Annual Exhibition includes work in media such as oil, acrylic, pastel, wood, photography, and mixed media, 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.