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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS SAMA'S MUSEUM/HEALTHCARE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Johnstown – In 2003, the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art first introduced its Museum/Healthcare Partnership Program, an initiative designed to help area residents suffering from mental and physical disabilities. Through the program, SAMA's trained artists and educators work with health care providers to develop residencies and workshops aimed at providing relief for patients dealing with physical pain and discomfort. Ten years later, SAMA's Johnstown Museum is celebrating some of the work created during these residencies with *The Art of Healing Exhibition: Reflections 2013*. On view July 12 through August 23, the exhibition features nearly thirty works created by patients during residencies at the John P. Murtha Neuroscience and Pain Institute.

Since its early beginnings as a partnership with Conemaugh Health System and a series of Artist-in-Residence programs at the John P. Murtha Neuroscience and Pain Institute, SAMA's program has grown to work with six separate organizations. Recently, the program has been expanded to include working with veterans groups. During the residencies, patients have the opportunity to work with a number of professional artists and learn various artistic disciplines, such as painting, sculpting, puppetry, dance, collage, storytelling, and Native American music and crafts, among others. Since its inception, SAMA's Museum/Healthcare Partnership Program has benefited more than 800 individuals throughout central and western Pennsylvania.

"SAMA's Museum/Healthcare Partnership Program is really booming this year," said Education Coordinator Jessica Campbell. "SAMA is excited to host this exhibition in partnership with Conemaugh Health System. The artistic expressions featured in this exhibition will leave you feeling inspired and wanting more. Please stop by to experience this unique collection created by individuals who are using the arts as a creative outlet."

The Museum will host an exhibition reception from 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday, July 12. The reception is open to the public free of charge, though reservations are requested

by July 9. For reservations or more information, please call the Museum at (814) 269-7234.

The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Johnstown is located in the Pasquerilla Performing Arts Center on the campus of the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. Hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Museum is a handicapped-accessible facility and is open to the public free of charge. For more information, please call the Museum or visit www.sama-art.org.

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