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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **HUSBAND AND WIFE ARTISTS TO SPEAK AT SAMA-LIGONIER VALLEY LUNCH PROGRAM**

Ligonier – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Ligonier Valley will host a Lunch a l'Art program with exhibiting artists Nora and Stuart Thompson on Thursday, October 20. The program, which begins at noon, includes lunch and a presentation by the artists. Cost is \$15 or \$12 for SAMA members. Reservations are required by October 14 and can be made by calling the Museum at (724) 238-6015.

Currently on view at the Museum is *Places and People: Nora and Stuart Thompson*. The exhibition offers nearly 100 works by the Latrobe area couple. Although the Thompsons are married, their artistic styles are quite different. Nora's illustration-based work uses humorous and touching emotional cues to express individuality, while Stuart's oil paintings and clay work places great value on nature.

Nora Thompson is an illustrator, graphic designer and fine artist who has been illustrating professionally since 1991. The SAMA exhibition features portraits of characters she created called The Rots, which were included in the book, *Twisted: Tales to Rot Your Brain Vol. 1*, and have been compared to the works of Charles Addams and Tim Burton. Stuart Thompson is Professor of Art Emeritus at Seton Hill University. When not in the studio, he can usually be found outdoors, road biking, hiking or doing trail maintenance for the Laurel Highlands Trail.

Lunch a l'Art programs are offered to encourage a greater understanding of various art forms and movements, as well as foster a deeper appreciation for the exhibitions presented by the Museum.

Prior to the lunch program will be a meeting of the SAMA Auxiliary at 11 a.m. The Auxiliary is always welcoming new members. If you are interested in joining the Auxiliary, please attend the meeting or call the Museum for further information.

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](http://www.sama-art.org).