April 20, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SAMA-ALTOONA EXHIBITION SPOTLIGHTS JOHNSTOWN ARTIST'S INSPIRATIONAL WORKS

Altoona – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Altoona is pleased to announce the opening of its latest exhibition, *Kim Williams: View to the Soul*. On view May 19 through September 9, the exhibition features 86 works by the Johnstown artist.

Williams' realistic paintings explore the expressiveness of animals' eyes through both whimsy and thoughtful messaging. The exhibition is comprised of 4-, 8- and 12-inch square gallery wrapped canvasses, each exploring the concept of vision – how something is perceived and how this "seeing" touches the heart. The works are acrylic on canvas, with some including flourishes of found or vintage objects and other mixed media.

"Don't let the size of Kim Williams' canvasses fool you; she packs a big wallop in a little space," said SAMA-Altoona Coordinator Barbara Hollander. "The excellence of style and composition shine through whether these pieces stand on their own or as an installation piece. Kim attracted my attention at a group show in Johnstown where her small pieces shouted loudly to be heard, and SAMA heeded the call. We are proud to bring her work to our Altoona audience."

Williams has returned to her painting roots from a life-long journey in creative media design. She has been Design Editor of Johnstown Magazine for the past thirteen years and has created award –winning newspaper illustrations for The Tribune-Democrat, in addition to designing numerous historical books, including "Heroes Were Made – the Story of Flight 93." Her recent 365 inspire[d] art exhibit propelled her into the adventure of daily painting and many of those works are now held in private collections throughout the U.S. and France. Williams is represented by several galleries including 321 Gallery in Hollidaysburg, ArtWorks in Johnstown, and G-Squared Gallery in Ligonier.

Williams will speak at a Lunch a l'Art at the Museum on Thursday, June 15. The program, which begins at noon, includes lunch and a presentation by the artist. Cost is $15 per person or $14 for SAMA members. Please call the Museum at (814) 946-4464.

Williams' art also will be celebrated at a Wicked Wednesday reception on June 28. The program includes light dinner and libations, as well as live music by The Amigos. Cost is $25 per person. Please call the Museum for reservations.

The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Altoona is located in the Brett Building at 1210 Eleventh Avenue. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday. The Museum is a handicapped-accessible facility and is open to the public free of charge. Parking is available in the garage across the street or in metered spots in the lot at the rear of the building. For more information, please call the Museum or visit www.sama-art.org.