

February 22, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact:
Dr. V. Scott Dimond, Curator for Visual Arts
(207) 504-7651
Travis Mearns, Public Relations Coordinator
(724) 238-6015

SAMA ACCEPTS SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF ART ACQUISITIONS

Loretto – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art’s art acquisition committee ended 2017 on a high note. At its December meeting, the committee accepted 58 works by 27 artists, among the largest number of works accepted by the Museum at one time. The recent acquisitions are indicative of the Museum’s fine arts holdings as there was a strong emphasis on regional and Pennsylvania artists, but also significant works on a national and international scale. The Museum acquired 64 works throughout 2017, bringing its current permanent collection holdings to 4,480 works.

Leading the donations were 28 paintings by Ron Donoughe given by Terry Laughlin. Vice Chairman and Head of Global Wealth and Investment Management for Bank of America and a Saint Francis alumnus, Laughlin purchased and donated the works, and they will be displayed on permanent loan in the University’s newly renovated Schwab Hall. The works were featured in *Labor and Landscape: 100 Paintings of the Allegheny Mountain Region by Ron Donoughe*, on view at SAMA-Loretto last summer.



Ron Donoughe, *Wire Mill Plumes*



Kate Moran, *Untitled*

Art collectors Bernard Schilling and Drew Knapton donated 24 works to the Museum from their recent exhibition, *Selections from the Schilling-Knapton Collection of Art*, which just closed its exhibition run at the Loretto Museum. Highlighted by artists such as Tony Bechara, Elizabeth Diller, Leonardo Drew, Yoshio Kitayama, Thomas Lendvai, Michael Mazur, Kate Moran, and Milt Surrey, the works significantly bolster the Museum’s holdings of contemporary abstract art, Op-Art, and Pop-Art.

Kimberly Nath Bringe of Greensburg, PA donated an etching by Josefa Filkosky titled *Veronica’s Veil* (1956). Filkosky was an artist and instructor best known for her Minimalist sculpture of the 1970s. She enjoyed a successful career as an art instructor at Seton Hill and was recognized as its Professor of the Year in 1993. SAMA’s collection includes several examples of the artist’s mature sculptures, which will be part of the Ligonier Valley Museum’s new sculpture park and garden, which is



Josefa Filkosky, *Veronica’s Veil*

scheduled to open in the spring.

Westmoreland County artist Patricia Majcher donated her watercolor of SAMA-Ligonier Valley, *Changing Seasons*, to the Museum. Majcher is regarded for her watercolor landscape paintings and serves as Treasurer of the Greensburg Art Center. She exhibits regularly with the Southwestern Pennsylvania Council for the Arts.



SAMA's Study Collection also received four donations.

Patricia Majcher, *Changing Seasons*



Julie Wohl, *Tradition and Inspiration*

Works from this collection are often taken into the schools for art lessons as part of the Museum's Arts-in-Education program. Ron Donoughe, a plein-air landscape painter based in Pittsburgh, donated three works to the collection. Donoughe is a native of Loretto whose work was featured at SAMA as recently as last summer. Also donating to the Study Collection was Julie Wohl. A self-taught artist, Wohl specializes in Expressionistic subjects centering on her Jewish faith. Wohl was featured in a one-person show at SAMA's Altoona

Museum in 2016.

"This round of acquisitions is especially noteworthy as it not only increases the depth of our already strong holdings of regional art, but also expands the SAMA collection into new territory, especially with regard to the work of American and European modernists," said SAMA Curator for Visual Art Dr. V. Scott Dimond.

The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Loretto is located on the campus of Saint Francis University. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday. The Museum is open to the public free of charge. For more information, please call the Museum at (814) 472-3920 or visit www.sama-art.org.