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AWARDS ANNOUNCED IN ART IN COMMON EXHIBITION

Altoona – Nineteen awards and honorable mentions have been announced for *Artists in Our Midst*, the annual juried exhibition of Art in Common. The exhibition is on view at the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Altoona through February 9, 2019.

First Place went to John Skrabalak of Altoona for his oil-and-cold-wax-on-wood painting, *MINEScape*. Peter Frantz of Tyrone took Second Place honors, while Jeanne Stevens-Sollman of Bellefonte and Anni Matsick of Boalsburg won Third Place and Fourth Place, respectively.

Juror's Choice Awards were given to Robert Benson of Bellefonte; Kathleen Kase Burk of Ebensburg; Marianne Fyda of Troutville; and Helen Gorsuch, Dee Hartman, Lynn Marchetti Heverly, Alim Kinte, and Sharon Wall, each of Altoona. Receiving Juror's Mention honors were: Sam Dietze, Steven Gilbert, Billie Hollen, Randy Klobetanz, Rosemary Fama-Malone, and Cynthia Ake Rabold, each of Altoona; and Dave McCoy of Hollidaysburg.

Serving as juror was Michael Allison of Hollidaysburg. An experienced commercial and fine artist, Allison was a founding member of Art in Common and was also the first full-time curator of the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art. The artist's murals grace several private homes and public locations, including the Lincoln Highway Heritage Corridor. Allison was recently named as Program Administrator of the Cambria/Somerset Public Art Project.

"This year's *Artists in Our Midst* exhibition shows a collection of work from artists who have shown growth and development," said Lynn Marchetti Heverly, Business Director and Treasurer of Art in Common. "With 29 accepted artists exhibiting 75 pieces, this show exemplifies this area's local talents. As chairman of *Artist in Our Midst*, I am proud to present the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art with an extraordinary exhibition."

Artists in Our Midst annually showcases a wide variety of media, and this year's show offers work in acrylic, pastel, pencil, oil, watercolor, photography, clay, bronze, steel, mixed media and much more. The exhibition is on view in the Museum's Shirley and Fred A. Pechter Gallery and Paul I. Detwiler Education Center.

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. For more information, call the Museum at (814) 946-4464 or visit www.sama-art.org.