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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **STUDENT ART EXHIBITION RETURNS TO SAMA MUSEUMS**

Loretto – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art will continue its tradition of celebrating the area’s talented young artists with the return of *Artists of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, the Museum’s annual student art exhibition. More than 300 student-created works will be featured in the dual exhibition. *Artists of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* will be on view at SAMA-Loretto from February 13 through April 11 and at SAMA-Ligonier Valley from February 20 through April 19.

Held in conjunction with National Youth Art Month and the State Arts-in-Education Month, the exhibition is open to schools that participate in SAMA’s Arts-in-Education program. Through the program, SAMA educators travel to public and parochial schools to provide lessons designed to enhance students’ understanding of art creation, technique, history, criticism and aesthetics. The award-winning program is the largest of its kind in the Commonwealth.

In total, 17 districts and 43 schools are participating in the exhibition. Each district is permitted to submit up to 20 individual projects and one group project. Schools in Westmoreland and Fayette counties will be exhibited at SAMA-Ligonier Valley, while schools in Bedford, Blair, Cambria and Somerset counties will be featured in the Loretto exhibition.

Each Museum will hold an opening reception to celebrate the exhibition and the region’s student artists. The SAMA-Loretto reception will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, February 14. SAMA-Ligonier Valley’s reception is scheduled for 1 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 1. Please note that parking for the Ligonier Valley reception is available at Fort Ligonier only, with free shuttles running to and from the Museum. The receptions are open to the public, but the Museum suggests a donation of \$1 per person in support of the exhibition.

SAMA Education Coordinator Jessica Campbell said the student art show, now in its seventeenth year, is a special program for young artists. “This is a wonderful exhibition that showcases the talented youth living in our area,” she said. “Not only does this exhibition display what imaginative minds can create, it also shows new and continued partnerships between SAMA and many local schools. We could not host this

community favorite without the support of our constituents, the school districts and the teachers who instill the love of art into their students.”

Schools represented in the Loretto exhibition include: Altoona Area Junior High and High schools; Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School; Blacklick Valley Elementary Center; Blacklick Valley Junior Senior High School; Cambria Heights Elementary School; Coal Country Youth Hangout Center; East Side Elementary School; Forest Hills Middle and High schools; Holy Name School; Jackson Elementary School; Northern Cambria High School; Penn Cambria Primary, Intermediate, Middle and High schools; Portage Area Elementary and High schools; St. Michael School; and Windber Area High School.

Schools participating in the SAMA-Ligonier Valley exhibition include: Amos K. Hutchinson Elementary School; Baggaley Elementary School; Fort Allen Elementary School; Greater Latrobe Junior and Senior High schools; Greensburg Salem Middle and High schools; Harrold Middle School; Hempfield Area Senior High School; Jeannette McKee Middle School; Latrobe Elementary School; Ligonier Valley High School; Maxwell Elementary School; McKee Elementary School; Mountain View Elementary School; Stanwood Elementary School; Valley School of Ligonier; Wendover Middle School; West Hempfield Elementary and Middle schools; and West Point Elementary School.

Each of the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art’s four locations – Altoona, Johnstown, Ligonier Valley and Loretto – is open to the public free of charge. Hours of operation at SAMA-Ligonier Valley are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. weekends. SAMA-Loretto’s operating hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturdays. For more information, visit [www.sama-art.org](http://www.sama-art.org) or call Jessica Campbell, Education Coordinator, at (814) 472-3920.

This project was made possible through the AIE Partnership of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency. State government funding for the arts depends upon an annual appropriation by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and support from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. The PCA Arts-in-Education Partner in this region is the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art.