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### **SAMA-BEDFORD EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS THREE LOCAL ARTISTS**

Bedford – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Bedford will shine a spotlight on three local artists in its latest exhibition. *Beauty, Turnings & Views: Lawrice “Recie” Dolan, George Radeschi and Morgan Young* opens in the Ashe & Regional galleries December 14, where it will remain on view through March 11.

Lawrice “Recie” Dolan of Manns Choice puts her “art and soul” into every one of her paintings. As a child, creating art brought her joy and provided her with a vehicle for expressing her feelings without words. She began with black-and-white drawings as that is how she saw the world. But throughout myriad life experiences such as the birth of her son, participating in expressive arts therapy training, embarking on years of spiritual exploration, and enjoying a career focused on women’s issues and personal growth, her world view has evolved and she now considers art-making to be essential.

Watermedia is her preferred medium today, which she uses to create “art stories” in bold colors. Her paintings employ collaging and layering materials, textures, images and symbols that often work intuitively “from chaos to order.” The exhibition at SAMA-Bedford features 30 works in acrylic, mixed media, watercolor and watermedia.

“I love the process of making art, as well as the adventure of sharing it,” she said. “My mission is to create beauty, to inspire goodness, to honor nature, and to reflect the ‘Wisdom, Mystery and Power of Being a Woman.’ It’s about courageously crossing thresholds and always ‘becoming.’”

Like fellow woodworkers Sam Maloof and George Nakashima, woodturner George Radeschi imbues in his work an unmistakable touch of love and pride. And like his artistic forebearers, Radeschi has transcended commercialism and popular trends in his unique creations. He shares with Maloof and Nakashima an aesthetic based on reverence for the beauty of solid hardwood, a love of simple structural shapes, and a rejection of applied ornament. And as was the case with the two late woodworkers, Radeschi has worked a piece of wood into an object that gives beauty to everyday living.

Radeschi, of Bedford, has been influenced by southwest Native American pottery as well as ancient Grecian and Egyptian art. The shapes of his turnings vary, but each one is a classic form and is made from hundreds of solid pieces of native and exotic hardwoods meticulously

measured, precisely cut and carefully glued together. From there they are gently turned on a lathe and finished to a smooth patina. The artist's work has earned more than 20 awards and is included in private, corporate and museum collections. The exhibition at SAMA-Bedford will feature seven turnings and two covered bowls.

Morgan Young of Bedford is represented in the exhibition by 23 oil paintings featuring views around Bedford County. A painter and observer of nature, Young finds inspiration in her surroundings. Her artistic process begins as she walks the land and photographs views that speak to her. From there, she selects the image that best captures the light and spirit that moved her and then attempts to represent on canvas the profound connection she has with the land.

"My deep appreciation for landscapes always felt like walking through a living painting," she said. "Nature, as a master craftsman and artist, never gets it wrong. It is in these places and moments of natural perfection I find a sense of personal regeneration. The peace around me becomes the peace I feel within.

"I had found that nature and its landscapes are my place to reconnect and mend. My years of walking the orchards and fields had visually and spiritually impacted the way I see the world and the land. It also has caused a deep admiration for the smaller things in life."

The Museum will celebrate its latest exhibitions with a Jingle Mingle from 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday, December 14. Seasonal libations and savory bites will be offered. Cost is \$10 per person. Reservations can be made by contacting the Museum at (814) 589-3020 or [bedford@sama-art.org](mailto:bedford@sama-art.org).

SAMA-Bedford is located in the historic Anderson House at 137 E. Pitt St. The Museum is open daily 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Fridays 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. The Museum is closed Tuesdays and holidays. Cost of admission is \$10 per person or free admission for SAMA members, ages 21 & under and 65 & older. The Museum offers free admission for Bedford residents on the first and third Wednesdays of every month. Parking is available on the street or in the lot at the rear of the building. For more information, please visit [www.sama-art.org](http://www.sama-art.org).