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***CONVERSATIONS WITH THE CURATOR SERIES TO EXAMINE THE AMERICAN  
CARNIVAL MIDWAY***

Loretto – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Loretto’s *Conversations with the Curator* lecture-and-lunch series will continue on Thursday, September 14. The program will begin at 12 p.m. and includes a presentation by SAMA Curator for Visual Arts, Dr. Scott Dimond, as well as a box lunch. An informal Q&A session will follow.

The program is titled “The Great American Midway: Escape for the Million.” Since its beginnings in the late nineteenth century, the carnival midway has offered ordinary Americans an exciting escape into a world of raucous fantasy. With its games and amusements, exotic attractions and thrilling rides, the midway is a world within a world. Lasting only a few days, its delights are fleeting, but the impressions it leaves are often the most unforgettable. In this talk, Dimond will explore the origins of the American midway and examine some of its key elements. In so doing, guests will discover what makes the old-fashioned midway such an enduring part of American culture despite our current immersion in technologically sophisticated entertainments.

“These lectures are intended to be informative, yet informal and fun,” said Dimond. “There will be plenty of things to look at, as well as some ‘show-and-tell’ and opportunities for conversation. It’s a pleasant way to get a little art history under your belt, whether you are an artist, a collector, a teacher, or anyone who has an appreciation for American visual culture.”

Cost for *Conversations with the Curator* is \$25 per program, which includes lunch. Please R.S.V.P. by September 11 to (814) 472-3920 or email [loretto@sama-art.org](mailto:loretto@sama-art.org). The next *Conversations with the Curator* program will be held December 14.

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, call the Museum or visit [www.sama-art.org](http://www.sama-art.org).