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**SAMA-LORETTO'S 2015 *CONVERSATIONS WITH THE CURATOR* SERIES  
TO BEGIN IN MARCH**

Loretto – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Loretto will open its 2015 season of *Conversations with the Curator: A Lecture-and-Lunch Series for Art Lovers and Collectors*, on Thursday, March 12. 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 period will follow.

The March program is titled “Light Entertainment: Popular Photography in the Nineteenth Century.” As a medium of entertainment and instruction, photography surpassed all other visual media during the second half of the nineteenth century. Working together, artists, inventors, explorers, and entrepreneurs brought the world’s wonders into the parlors of nearly everyone. Technological innovations, notably the stereoscope, enhanced photography’s already remarkable verisimilitude, creating an appetite for visual immediacy that would ultimately lead to the movies, television, and computer-generated entertainment that we take for granted today. In this talk, Dimond will explore the early impact of photographic entertainment using original media and equipment from the Victorian period.

“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. As I envision it, they will be 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. to (814) 472-3920 by March 9. The next *Conversations with the Curator* program will be held June 11.

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).