

July 26, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact:

Kristin Miller, SAMA-Ligonier Valley Coordinator
(724) 238-6015

Travis Mearns, Public Relations Coordinator
(724) 238-6015

**SAMA-LIGONIER VALLEY TO HOST EXHIBITION OF LATROBE NATIVE,
DOREEN CURRIE**

Ligonier – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Ligonier Valley is pleased to announce its latest exhibition, *Doreen Currie: Plein-Air Paradigm*. On view August 17 through November 4, the exhibition will feature more than 60 oil paintings by the Latrobe artist.

A fourth-generation Latrobe native, Currie lives on a portion of her great-grandfather's farm. She grew up with a deep love of the local landscape, which is evident throughout her artwork. She spent much of her childhood exploring and practicing her artistic skills, and later studied art and design at Seton Hill University. In 2004, she transitioned from watercolor to oil as her primary medium, which also sparked an interest in painting *en plein air* or, painting outdoors.

If the weather cooperates, Currie can likely be found, paintbrush in hand, along some country road. A pleasant day for her begins with grabbing her French easel and packing her backpack with turpentine, linseed oil, brushes, paints, and a small sketchbook. "I head out with much of the same equipment used by Vincent van Gogh more than a century earlier when he painted *Plain near Auvers*," she said.

She still employs the same paint box that she used during her college years. Her most modern convenience is a camera, which she uses to record the change of light or to capture subtle elements of the landscape she may have missed or forgotten.

Currie never finds herself short on inspiration; she needs only look around at the farmlands, hillsides and fields that dot the region's landscape. "A wise teacher told me years ago to paint what you know, and I have always loved the countryside of Pennsylvania," she said.

Through her artwork, she hopes others will find the inspiration and beauty in the natural landscape that so enamors her. Whether it be cattle grazing in a field or sunlight scattering through the trees, she invites those who view her work to pause and take in the natural world around them.

"I truly hope my paintings will inspire others to take a Sunday drive through the countryside," she said. "Wind down the windows and smell the fresh air. See the many different shades of green, the varied colors in the sky and the changing formations of the clouds. In our busy world, many of us forget the true beauty that lies all around us. An artist sees the riches that

most people never notice. I hope, through my paintings, others will take the time to experience the beauty.”

Currie has been featured in solo exhibitions at galleries, art centers, colleges and museums throughout the region, including showings in juried exhibitions at SAMA-Ligonier Valley. Her paintings have won Best of Show honors in the Museum’s annual *Paint Out* and 20th anniversary *Paint Us* contests. Currie is represented by Latrobe Art Center, Greensburg Art Center and Glass Growers Gallery in Erie, as well as galleries in Eastern Pennsylvania, Delaware and Virginia. Her work is featured in numerous private and corporate collections.

The Museum will host an opening reception with the artist from 6 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, August 18. The reception is open to the public free of charge, though reservations are required by August 10 by calling the Museum at (724) 238-6015 or emailing ligonier@sama-art.org.

Currie will return to the Museum to speak at a Lunch a l’Art at noon on Thursday, August 23. Cost for the program, which includes lunch and a presentation by the artist, is \$15 or \$12 for SAMA members. Reservations are required by August 17 by contacting the Museum.

The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Ligonier Valley is located at One Boucher Lane and Route 711 South in Ligonier. The Museum is a handicapped-accessible facility and is open to the public free of charge. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. weekends. For more information, please call the Museum or visit www.sama-art.org.