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## **SAMA-LIGONIER VALLEY TO DEBUT NEW SCULPTURE PARK DURING GARDEN PARTY CELEBRATION JUNE 2**

Ligonier – This spring, the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Ligonier Valley’s Garden Party will take guests to the many stops along the famed Orient Express railway. But one such stop will become a permanent fixture at the Ligonier Museum. As part of SAMA’s *Orient Express* Garden Party on June 2, the Museum will hold a ribbon cutting to officially open the Donald M. Robinson Sculpture Park.

The sculpture park consists of five abstract steel sculptures and three benches by the late Josefa Filkosky, an artist and Seton Hill University art professor. Joining those works is Joseph Mannino’s terra cotta work, *An Eye for Ai Yi Yi Yi Yi* (1994) and an authentic medieval gargoyle. Also featured are three previously installed sculptures: John Mayer’s *Cattails* (2013), Don Drumm’s *Noah’s Ark* (2014), and Glenna Goodacre’s *River Woman* (1989). In the future, the Museum looks to add new sculptures while offering walking tours and hosting additional outdoor events.

The project began in the spring of 2017 when Carnegie Mellon University professor John Folan and his Urban Design Build Studio students laid out plans for the sculpture installations. Engineers Bob Long and Gerry Mattern then designed the sculpture foundations, which were set by Beaufort Services. Cresson Steel, which had earlier in the year performed conservation work on the Filkosky sculptures, delivered the works in late summer. The next step was the addition of two flower gardens and, most recently, the installation of a flagstone pathway and expanded fencing. The project will conclude in late May with the addition of lighting and painting the Filkosky sculptures.

“I am so excited to unveil our new Donald M. Robinson Sculpture Park,” said SAMA-Ligonier Valley Coordinator Kristin Miller. “It will be a wonderful feature that will excite our visitors for years to come. I am grateful to the Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation, Ligonier Valley Endowment and the Donald Robinson family for their financial support of the project. I also thank Ed O’Brien, Cresson Steel, Gerry Mattern, Bob Long, John Folan and his architecture students, Seton Hill University, and Michael Strueber and SAMA’s Board of Trustees for their enthusiasm, support and work toward building the sculpture park.”

SAMA-Ligonier Valley's *Orient Express* Garden Party begins with a champagne reception in the Elizabeth Shaw Gamble Gallery to celebrate the featured exhibition, *Ritual Abstractions: Australian Aboriginal Art from the Collection of Anne M. MacDougall*. From there, guests will proceed to the tent on the lawn for live music, entertainment, gourmet cuisine, games of chance and exhibits of railroad memorabilia and model train displays courtesy of Derry Railroad Association and other railroad enthusiasts.

The Garden Party also offers silent and live auctions. The silent auction will feature a variety of artwork, gift baskets, dinner and event packages and much more. In the live auction, guests will have an opportunity to bid on original paintings by John Buxton and Rita Haldeman, as well as a 1934 brass Pennsylvania Railroad train bell #45. Mounted in a black iron support, the bell weights 200 pounds and is signed by GG Zeak, a well-known PRR bell refurbisher. Train enthusiasts also may be intrigued by the rustic charm and intricate detailing of a Conquest hand-crafted, weathered-and-worn metal train clock designed and crafted by The Barrel Shack. Another item featured in the live auction is a stained-glass cross created by Br. Mark Floreanini. The patterned sections of glass in the cross are from the St. Vincent Basilica clerestory and are over 100 years old. Also featured in the live auction is a Masters flag autographed by Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus.

The Garden Party is sponsored by Somerset Trust. Garden Party patrons include the Silberman Family Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation, Patrick R. Wallace – Covington Investment Advisors, Inc., and WJAC-TV.

The Garden Party will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. on June 2. Tickets are \$125 per person and reservations are required by May 25. Sponsorship and advertising opportunities are available. For tickets or additional information, please call the Museum at (724) 238-6015 or visit [www.sama-art.org](http://www.sama-art.org).

The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Ligonier Valley is located at One Boucher Lane and Route 711 South in Ligonier. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. weekends. The Museum is a handicapped-accessible facility and is open to the public free of charge.