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## **ALTOONA NATIVE'S OIL PAINTINGS TO BE EXHIBITED AT SAMA-ALTOONA**

Altoona – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Altoona is pleased to announce its latest exhibition, *Billie Hollen: She Comes in Colors*. Featuring nearly 40 oil paintings by the Altoona native, the exhibition will be on view January 18 through May 18 in the Museum's George A. and Herbert T. Wolf Gallery.

A lifelong resident of Altoona, Hollen displayed an avid interest in art from a young age. Her earliest creations in crayons gave way to explorations in crafts and photography, but the artist eventually found a calling in oil painting. Her colorful paintings are influenced by places she has visited, both real and imagined. The exhibition at SAMA-Altoona includes scenes of local landmarks like Altoona's drive-in theater and the Brett Building, as well as numerous seaside vistas and garden views, among other locales.

Hollen sees art as an avenue of personal expression rather than profit. Her private studio has become a gathering place for like-minded artists and students to explore their artistic talents and embark on voyages of personal expression. An active member of Art in Common, Hollen has won numerous awards over the last two decades, although she lists her "People's Choice" awards as the ones she finds most fulfilling. Her work is regularly featured in shows throughout Blair County and the surrounding area.

"Billie Hollen has been an advocate for our regional artists for many years, and it is an honor for SAMA to showcase her considerable talents," said SAMA-Altoona Coordinator Barbara Hollander. "Billie's work is easily recognizable because of her intense detail, vitality of color and precise composition. Through her painterly style, Billie's reality becomes other-worldly."

Hollen will speak at a Lunch a l'Art program at the Museum on April 4. The program begins at noon and includes lunch and lecture by the artist. Cost is \$15 per person or \$14 for SAMA members. Please contact the Museum at (814) 946-4464 or [altoona@sama-art.org](mailto:altoona@sama-art.org) for reservations.

The Museum will celebrate the exhibition at a *Wicked Wednesday* reception on March 27. The program includes light supper, libations and live music. Cost is \$15 per person. Reservations are required by contacting the Museum.

The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Altoona is located in the Brett Building at 1210 Eleventh Avenue. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturdays. The Museum is a handicapped-accessible facility and is open to the public free of charge. For more information, please visit [www.sama-art.org](http://www.sama-art.org).