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## **SAMA-LORETTO EXHIBITION EXAMINES PENNSYLVANIA COAL COUNTRY**

Loretto – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Loretto will open its latest exhibition, *A Hard-Working Land: Photographs by Barnosky, Gutshall and Swank*, on April 20. On view in the Museum's Margery Wolf-Kuhn Balcony Gallery, the exhibition features 30 photographs from Pennsylvania photographers Jack Barnosky, Gerald Erro Gutshall and Luke Swank that examine Pennsylvania's coal country landscape. *A Hard-Working Land* will be on display through June 9.

With its deep-rooted mining and steel industries, Pennsylvania coal country has been home to hard-working people for generations. At the same time, the landscape itself is one of labor, bearing its scars and weariness with a kind of quiet pride. Although it might appear hard and unlovely to outsiders, this landscape makes no apologies. Its sprawling mills, strip mines, scrap yards and humble towns are a strong and visible testament to a region that has contributed more than its fair share to America's industrial might.

Drawn from the Museum's permanent collection, this exhibition features a selection of coal country subjects by photographers Barnosky, Gutshall and Swank. From Swank's images of Johnstown's steel mills to the landscape photographs of Barnosky and Gutshall, *A Hard-Working Land* documents that many faces of industrial Pennsylvania. Ranging from its heyday in the early twentieth century to the challenges it faced during the 1980s and '90s, the photographs on view constitute a powerful vision that is stark, sympathetic and ineffably moving.

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. Saturdays. The Museum is open to the public free of charge. For more information, please call the Museum at (814) 472-3920 or visit [www.sama-art.org](http://www.sama-art.org).