

June 22, 2018

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ART COLLECTOR TO SPEAK AT SAMA-LIGONIER VALLEY LUNCH PROGRAM

Ligonier – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Ligonier Valley will host a Lunch a l'Art program with art collector Anne MacDougall on Thursday, July 19. The program, which begins at noon, includes lunch and a gallery tour and presentation by MacDougall. Cost is \$15 or \$12 for SAMA members. Reservations are required by July 13 and can be made by calling the Museum at (724) 238-6015.

Born in New York, MacDougall grew up in Connecticut and graduated from the University of New Hampshire with a B.A. in the arts and a minor in marine biology. As an artist, her work has included illustrating marine biology books and designing educational exhibits for museums and galleries. She also has worked in advertising as a graphic designer, both in the U.S. and Australia. It was through her travels during a 17-year circumnavigation of the world by sailboat with her husband Lanny and two children, James and Lizzy, that she acquired her collections of indigenous art. She now lives on a farm in Ligonier where she continues her work with educational indigenous art exhibits.

Currently on view at the Museum is *Ritual Abstractions: Australian Aboriginal Paintings from the Collection of Anne M. MacDougall*. Through vibrant abstract imagery, the nearly 40 paintings and artifacts on display depict sacred stories, the earth, and cultural traditions that remain relevant today. Imbued with complex layers of meaning, the paintings offer a glimpse into ancient traditions that shape the past, present and future. The exhibition will remain on view through August 5.

Lunch a l'Art programs are offered to encourage a greater understanding of various art forms and movements, as well as foster a deeper appreciation for the exhibitions presented by the Museum.

Prior to the lunch program will be a meeting of the SAMA Auxiliary at 11 a.m. The Auxiliary is always welcoming new members. If you are interested in joining the Auxiliary, please attend the meeting or call the Museum for further information.

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. For more information, call the Museum or visit www.sama-art.org.