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LATE ALTOONA ARTIST'S ABSTRACT ART ON VIEW AT SAMA-ALTOONA

Altoona – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Altoona is pleased to announce its latest exhibition, *James Mascitelli: R(ock) I(n) P(eace)*. On view January 19 through May 12, the exhibition features nearly 30 of the late Altoona artist's abstract paintings.

With a bold palette and powerful imagery, Mascitelli's works pay homage to the great abstract expressionists of the 1960s like Jackson Pollack and Robert Motherwell. His work has received national and international recognition, including an exhibition at the Viridian Artists Gallery in New York City. His work also has been displayed at SAMA, the Zoller Gallery at The Pennsylvania State University, and with the Mount Aloysius College Art Alliance.

Mascitelli received a B.F.A and M.F.A from The Pennsylvania State University, where he later taught as an instructor. He also taught at Mount Aloysius College and Indiana University of Pennsylvania. His work has been recognized for its excellence by the directors of the Museum of Contemporary Art, the Fogg Art Museum, the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Los Angeles County Museum, among other institutions.

"I first saw James Mascitelli's paintings at his home/studio several years ago," said SAMA-Altoona Coordinator Barbara Hollander. "I immediately booked him for an exhibition. I was intrigued by his prominent use of shape and design that created a new sense of the word abstract. Jim's technical mastery of subject is demonstrated by his hundreds of preliminary sketches and drawings of his chosen subject.

"Sadly, Jim passed away last year. His family donated his work to the Museum. We proudly exhibit the work of James Mascitelli for a second time, mourning his passing and celebrating his genius."

The Museum will celebrate the exhibition at a Wicked Wednesday on March 14. The program includes light supper, libations and live music. Cost is \$25 per person. Please call the Museum at (814) 946-4464 for reservations.

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. Saturday. The Museum is a handicapped-accessible facility and is open to the public

free of charge. Parking is available in the garage across the street or in metered spots in the lot at the rear of the building. For more information, call the Museum or visit www.sama-art.org.