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### **ALTOONA EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS BEDFORD ARTIST'S WIDE-RANGING WORKS**

Altoona – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Altoona is pleased to announce the opening of its latest exhibition, *Michael Long: MEDIA – Mixed and Multi*. Opening February 16, the exhibition is based on the various styles and techniques developed by Bedford artist Michael Long over a 25-year span. The exhibition offers more than 40 works and will remain on view through May 19.

Long's interest in creating art began during his childhood, and by the time he was 17, he had created his first commission. By his early 20s, Long was working in Pittsburgh in the film industry under makeup and special effects guru Tom Savini. His passion for learning and experimenting with a multitude of alternative creative processes led him to the world of fine art. Initially, his focus was abstractions on canvas. Later, he began combining his experience in ceramics, steel and woodworking.

A member of the Associated Artists of Pittsburgh, Long's art has been featured in solo and group shows throughout the region. His large installations can be seen in a permanent collection at the Station Medical Center in Altoona. *MEDIA – Mixed and Multi* covers a broad scope of expression in an array of media including steel, clay, paint, wood and found objects.

Long will speak at a Lunch a l'Art program at the Museum on April 12. Cost for the program, which begins at noon, is \$15 or \$14 for SAMA members. Please call the Museum at (814) 946-4464 for reservations.

The Museum will celebrate the exhibition at a *Wicked Wednesday* reception on March 14. The program includes light supper and libations as well as a musical performance by Conner Gilbert. Cost is \$25 per person. Reservations are required by calling 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. Parking is available in the garage across

the street or in the lot at the rear of the building. For more information, call the Museum or visit [www.sama-art.org](http://www.sama-art.org).