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LORETTO EXHIBITION CELEBRATES VENERABLE ART ACADEMY

Loretto – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Loretto is pleased to announce its latest exhibition, *Tradition and Innovation: Recent Work by Alumni and Faculty of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts*. The exhibition opens April 20 in the Museum's Sullivan Gallery and will remain on view through June 9.

The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts is America's oldest continuously operated art school and museum. Founded in Philadelphia in 1805, it numbers among its alumni and faculty some of the greatest names in American art. From Charles Willson Peale to Thomas Eakins, Mary Cassatt and Cecilia Beaux, to the leading Realists of the present day, the Pennsylvania Academy has diligently maintained a strong commitment to preserving and transmitting the highest principles in art instruction. Yet it does so with an eye toward keeping these principles always fresh and relevant for each new generation of artists.

Tradition and Innovation is intended to reveal how America's most distinguished art school calls on its vital legacy of tradition even as it pushes the boundaries of representation. Focusing on the work of approximately 50 contemporary Academy alumni and faculty, this special exhibition will offer SAMA audiences some of the finest in American Realist painting and drawing. Curated especially for the Museum, this invitational show will include several never-before-seen works that have been created exclusively for the exhibition.

The Museum will celebrate the exhibition with a reception on Saturday, May 19 from 6 to 8 p.m. The reception is open to the public free of charge. Reservations are requested by May 17 by calling the Museum at (814) 472-3920.

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, visit www.sama-art.org.