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**SAMA-LIGONIER VALLEY TO HOST SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA
COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS EXHIBITION**

Ligonier – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Ligonier Valley will celebrate the work of local artists with the *Southwestern Pennsylvania Council for the Arts 23rd Annual Regional Juried Art Exhibition*. On view November 16 through February 3, the exhibition features 67 works by artists from the 19 southwestern counties of Pennsylvania. Featured works will span a variety of media, including acrylic, oil, pastel, photography, watercolor, wood, masonry, and many others.

Since its inception, the exhibition has become known for its freshness and energy in the art of emerging young artists and for the dazzling presentations of established artists who are developing a new direction with their art. This installment marks the fifteenth consecutive year the exhibition is hosted by SAMA-Ligonier Valley.

Serving as juror was landscape painter Thomas McNickle. A native of New Castle, McNickle graduated with an M.Ed. from Edinboro State University. His extensive teaching background includes positions at Butler Institute of American Art, Westminster College and Youngstown State University, among others, and he regularly conducts classes and workshops across the U.S. McNickle received the Butler County Community College Lifetime Achievement Award in 2009 and is an elected member of both the American and National Watercolor societies. His work has been featured in dozens of solo exhibitions at galleries and museums throughout the eastern United States.

To celebrate the exhibition, SAMA will host an opening reception from 6 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, November 17. The reception is open to the public free of charge. For more information, please call the Museum at (724) 238-6015.

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.