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For more information, contact:

Dr. Scott Dimond, Curator for Visual Arts

(207) 504-7651

Travis Mearns, Public Relations Coordinator

(724) 238-6015

**SAMA-JOHNSTOWN TO EXHIBIT ARTIST'S EXPRESSIVE, WHIMSICAL
ANIMAL ART**

Johnstown – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Johnstown is pleased to announce the opening of its latest exhibition, *Truth in Animals: Linda Mitchell*. On view June 9 through August 18, the exhibition features 26 mixed media works by the Georgia artist.

Mitchell's mixed media paintings are populated by animals, both real and imagined. In these narrative works, the animals often become surrogates for human beings and their emotional lives. Some of the animal figures, including those made from fabric and Play-Doh, speak directly to the child within and the vulnerable, delicate places of the viewer's own past. Mitchell's highly textured pieces are made with painted and photographic images, fabric and found objects. They coalesce into intricate and surreal scenes, reflecting life's emotional complexity. By working intuitively, the artist layers materials, images and dream-like scenarios. Inevitably, the artwork ends up expressing aspects of her life or problems she is working through. Continually arising are reflections of the artist's inner world and personal history, and her concerns for social equality and global survival.

Born in Atlanta, Mitchell grew up in a family that nurtured her strong, early interest in both animals and making art. She received a BFA from the University of Georgia in painting and an MFA in painting, and a second in sculpture, from Georgia State University. The artist's paintings have been exhibited in solo exhibitions in museums and galleries nationwide. Her work is represented by Thomas Deans Fine Art and Mason Fine Art in Atlanta; Linda Matney Fine Art in Williamsburg, Va.; and Dogwood Gallery in Tyrone, Ga. Her work can be found in numerous museum, corporate and private collections.

The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Johnstown is located in the Pasquerilla Performing Arts Center on the campus of the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. The Museum is a handicapped accessible facility and is open to the public free of charge. Hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, please call the Museum at (814) 269-7234 or visit www.sama-art.org.