Please mark your calendar for these exciting events coming to SAMA in 2019!

Crystal Soirée @ SAMA-Bedford  
January 26

Gala @ SAMA-Loretto  
June 29

Garden Party @ SAMA-Ligonier Valley  
July 27

Think Pink @ SAMA-Altoona  
November 1

Cover:  
Deborah and R. Jeffrey Kimball Best of Show Award  
Stuart Thompson  
Reality Comes and Goes, 2018  
Oil on canvas, 54" x 72"  
Courtesy of the artist
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Welcome! Thank you for joining us for the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art’s *Biennial 2018*. This year’s exhibition has significant meaning to me as it is my first. Only three months into my tenure as SAMA Executive Director, I was not prepared for the truly astounding pieces of art that would be submitted by artists from the region and across our state.

The Biennial is designed to showcase the creativity, talent and artistry of artists from across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This exhibition celebrates the creative spirit and artistic expression of the state’s contemporary artists. The Biennial has attracted some of the best talent and offers some of the most remarkable works of any juried exhibition. I am confident that visitors to the Museum will come away knowing that creative energy, a spirit of excellence and soaring artistic ability abound in this region.

I congratulate all of the artists showcased in this year’s exhibition and also highlight some outstanding pieces that have been shared. From the portrayal of daily life and ordinary items to sharing iconic cultural experiences, to the deeply personal experiences, this exhibition has something for everyone. I am positive our visitors will leave this exhibition having had a unique, thought-provoking experience.

My sincere gratitude is extended to everyone who has worked to make *Biennial 2018* a memorable experience for participating artists and a noteworthy event for Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art. I thank Maureen Vissat Kochanek, art history professor at Seton Hill University, who served as selection and awards juror and whose dedication to task, attention to detail and respect for the artists contributed immeasurably to the Biennial program. I also thank the Museum staff and specifically Curator Dr. Scott Dimond, Registrar Beverlie Hartnett, Site Coordinator Jessica Campbell and Facilities Manager Lee Rummel, each of whom deserves recognition for their efforts to bring *Biennial 2018* to the Museum. A special thank you to our award sponsors and our Biennial patrons – Dr. Magdi and Karen Azer, Jim Cayce and Tom Dosh, Commercial Bank & Trust of PA, Glenda and Michael Forosisky, Deborah and R. Jeffrey Kimball, Eva and Michael Kranich, Dean and Paula Lemley, Marian and Dr. Owen K. Morgan, Barbara and Ed O’Brien, Barbara and Larry Savino, and Chantel Ventura - whose generosity and support were critical to the Biennial’s success. Finally, the support of our active and involved community is essential to the Museum’s future. The generosity and support that I have witnessed so early in my time at SAMA has been overwhelming.

Vanessa K. Houser
Executive Director
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Stuart Thompson, Reality Comes and Goes

Chantel Ventura First Place Award ($500)
Ron Donoughe, Elliott Shadows

Dr. Magdi and Karen Azer Second Place Award ($250)
Daniel C. Helsel, Blue and White Teapot with Cherries

Barbara and Larry Savino Third Place Award ($100)
Dave Hammaker, Burning Man

Glenda and Michael Forosisky Third Place Award ($100)
Kevin O’Toole, 415-17

Marian and Dr. Owen K. Morgan Third Place Award ($100)
Joseph Ryznar, Homage to Anastasi

Barbara and Ed O’Brien People’s Choice Award ($300)
To be determined by popular vote at the close of the exhibition. Cast your ballot at the reception desk!

Chantel Ventura
People’s Choice Award (Biennial 2016)
Diana Williams
Seafaring Textures, 2015
Oil on linen, 59” x 41”
Courtesy of the artist
Chantel Ventura First Place Award
Ron Donoughe
*Elliott Shadows*, 2014
Oil on linen, 48” x 72”
Courtesy of the artist
I want to thank Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art for inviting me to jury *Biennial 2018*. I am honored to be selected for the region’s premier invitational exhibition to be displayed in such a distinctive venue. Scott Dimond, Curator of Visual Arts, and Beverlie Hartnett, Registrar, have extended me every professional courtesy; thank you for your graciousness. Special thanks to Jessica Campbell, Education Coordinator; I am privileged to “work” for a former student. The submissions presented me with an abundance of riches to view. So many strong works of art made choosing indeed a difficult task. I was deeply moved by some of the work, was joyed at the beauty of many pieces, and was intellectually challenged by several artists.

As an art historian, I am particularly interested in how art is emblematic of its moment in human civilization. Visual art is a precious cultural document, brought to life by individuals who themselves are informed by the times in which they create. When we want to know about the glory that was Greece, we study the Acropolis; when we want to experience the grandeur that was Rome, we visit the Coliseum and the Pantheon. The optimism of the Italian Renaissance is exquisitely stated in Michelangelo’s heroic *David*.

Similarly, when we want to enter into an age of faith, the Gothic Cathedrals transport us to the heavenly Jerusalem on Earth while in the modern era the quest for the metaphysical is often more individual – Casper David Friedrich’s nuanced landscapes and Mark Rothko’s undulating rectangles are holy portals to a unity with the Divine. The American tradition of the Hudson River painters created a national identity for a young country that was soon to witness a threat to the pristine landscapes. With the coming of industrialization, America would become a world leader while the New Eden, painted by Cole, Church and Inness, vanished. When we wish to really feel the tumult of war and revolutions Delacroix’s *Liberty Leading the People* and Picasso’s *Guernica* are our visual icons. Art remains a vital link to our collective past, while contemporary art indicates our own era; the art of our own time is no exception.

Our cultural landscape is rife with political and social turmoil. The arts are a powerful voice that can be readily understood as visual symbols speaking to the many divisive issues plaguing America. We see these potent images on social media, in the news, as well as in art galleries. Visual art transcends the word (spoken and written), as it is immediate. Social art is readily grasped; it is a welcomed respite from the barrage of words assaulting us daily. The art in this exhibition speaks in many visual languages in terms of media, with a diverse range from realism to abstraction to the non-objective, with a healthy diversity in subject.
Dr. Magdi and Karen Azer Second Place Award
Daniel C. Helsel
*Blue and White Teapot with Cherries*, 2016
Oil on linen mounted on board, 12” x 16”
Courtesy of the artist
The range in iconography includes landscapes of beautiful southwestern Pennsylvania, portraits, and social justice statements. The natural beauty of our region continues to inspire painters; this *Biennial* evidences the power of nature as an enduring motif to respond. Nature as a source of inspiration, a place to escape perhaps to seek some peace that transcends the daily challenges, is constant and does in fact reflect a healthy practice given our larger world. The overt social statements on violence, power, and labor are both timely and powerful. Portraiture, the desire to create the likeness of an individual, has remained constant throughout the ages; *potrahere*, from where the term portrait comes, literally means to draw forth.

Artists in this *Biennial* have crafted a range of responses to the human form in all of its complexity. We note women continuing to be both the subject as well as the object of many works, while perhaps we may note a couple of artists representing self. Realism and abstraction dominate this *Biennial*, yet there are significant examples of artists embracing the non-objective with confidence. The proficiency displayed in craftsmanship is staggering in some of the sculptures. The pure delight of spontaneity, utilizing gesture to capture the rhythm of the universe is felt in others. The wide spectrum of media employed by artists to make their mark in responding to the world in which we live is impressive.

I hope the audience enjoys the exhibition as much as I enjoyed looking at the images while making my selections. There is a wealth of talent in our arts communities - we are very rich! Art is the magnificence of humanity – it is what makes our endurance heroic. Thank you artists for visualizing our hopes, articulating our struggles, giving face to our delights, and enriching the world we share.

Maureen Vissat Kochanek  
Art Historian  
Seton Hill University
Maureen Vissat Kochanek

is an art history professor at Seton Hill University. She teaches a variety of classes such as History of Western Art, Italian Renaissance Art, Women in Art, Modern Art, American Art, and Post-Modern Art. In addition to her decades of teaching at Seton Hill, Maureen has also taught at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, St. Vincent College, and summer sessions in Lucca, Italy. Maureen leads art history study trips in Europe each May. She is the recipient of numerous teaching awards.

In addition to her teaching, Maureen is an active public speaker. She has been invited to lecture at many arts organizations and museums in southwestern Pennsylvania. On a larger stage, she presents at national conferences throughout the United States. Maureen is an advocate for social engagement of the arts, particularly on issues of social justice and equity.

Maureen holds an undergraduate degree in history and art history from Georgetown University and a master’s degree in art history from the University of Pittsburgh. She has two children Livia and Evan Vissat. Maureen lives in Pittsburgh with her husband Patrick Kochanek, MD.
Barbara and Larry Savino Third Place Award
Dave Hammaker
Burning Man, 2017
Archival pigment photographic print on paper, 20” x 31”
Courtesy of the artist
CATALOGUE

Michael Allison (Hollidaysburg)
Scotch Bonnet #12, 2018
Mixed media on aluminum, 35” x 60”
Courtesy of the artist

Jean Coursey Beaufort (Ligonier)
Yellowstone, n.d.
Watercolor on Yupo paper, 8” x 10”
Courtesy of the artist

Michael C. Begenyi (Northern Cambria)
Escape, 2017
Screenprint, 18” x 14”
Courtesy of the artist

Robert Bender (Stillwater)
Chips, 2016
Photograph of cast glass sculpture,
20” x 8” x 6”
Collection of the artist

David Bentley (Beaver Falls)
Chiaroscuro Grapes, 2017
Inkjet print, 11” x 14 1/2”
Courtesy of the artist

Robert Bowden (Pittsburgh)
Farm Solitude, 2018
Watercolor, 13” x 18”
Courtesy of the artist

Kathleen Kase Burk (Ebensburg)
Boxed Set, 2017
Pencil drawing on paper, 28 1/4” x 39”
Courtesy of the artist

Allen Capriotti (Altoona)
Annunciation to Mary (by Angel Gabriel), 2018
Oil on linen, 48” x 36”
Courtesy of the artist

Ken Cotlar (Ebensburg)
#511, 2017
Acrylic and epoxy resin on canvas, 30” x 30”
Courtesy of the artist

Kevin Cutway (Jeannette)
The Maid of Honor, 2018
Acrylic and resin, 14” x 10”
Courtesy of the artist

William DeBernardi (Pittsburgh)
The Mud and Straw of History: The Elephant in the Room, 2016
Oil on canvas, 35” x 22”
Courtesy of the artist

Philosopher, 2017
Oil on canvas, 39” x 60”
Courtesy of the artist

Mike Demi (Burnham)
Wanna War, 2014
Acrylic on board, 28” x 36”
Courtesy of the artist

Where Are You Going with That Gun in Your Hand?, 2017
Graphite on paper, 9” x 7”
Courtesy of the artist

Karen A. Deutsch (State College)
Rhapsody, 2018
Photograph, 14” x 11”
Courtesy of the artist

Alexis Dillon (Greensburg)
Coulliere Beach, 2017
Digital photographic print, 30” x 20”
Courtesy of the artist

Lawrice “Recie” Dolan (Manhns Choice)
Woman of Substance, 2016
Mixed media on canvas, 30” x 30”
Courtesy of the artist

Ron Donoughe (Pittsburgh)
Elliott Shadows, 2014
Oil on linen, 48” x 72”
Courtesy of the artist

Ann Dougherty (Johnstown)
Regeneration of the Soul, 2018
Oil on canvas, 40” x 30”
Courtesy of the artist

Brian Dumm (Ebensburg)
Turning Point, 2018
Mixed media, 24” x 18”
Courtesy of the artist

Norman Ed (Johnstown)
Another Game, 2016
Steel, wood, found objects, 82” x 38” x 16”
Courtesy of the artist

Earl W. Elliott (Catonville, MD)
Tony, n.d.
Marble, 12” x 12” x 1 5/8”
Courtesy of the artist

Will Espey (Mineral Point)
Chi’s Sign Language, 2017
Watercolor canvas print, 22” x 19”
Courtesy of the artist

Duncan Everhart (Alum Bank)
Type Specimen II, 2018
Cherry, white oak and copper foil,
32” x 27” x 16”
Courtesy of the artist

Joy Fairbanks (Blairsville)
Stonesetter, 2016
Digital photograph, 30” x 27”
Courtesy of the artist

Marianne Fyda (Troutville)
Amaryllis with Juan Gris, 2017
Pastel on mounted U-Art paper, 22” x 17”
Courtesy of the artist
Eric Gaston (Roaring Spring)
*Court of the Patriarchs*, 2017
Photograph, 16” x 20”
Courtesy of the artist

Fishing by the Lighthouse, 2017
Photograph, 16” x 20”
Courtesy of the artist

Swimming with the Snow, 2017
Photograph, 18” x 24”
Courtesy of the artist

Steven Gilbert (Altoona)
*A Time for Every Purpose*, 2010-18
Oil on Masonite, 48” x 36”
Courtesy of the artist

Marcene Glover (Johnstown)
*Finding Refuge*, 2017
Oil and gold leaf on panel, 60” x 48”
Courtesy of the artist

Helen Gorsuch (Altoona)
*Jonah in the Big Fish*, 2018
Glazed and underglazed fired clay,
12” x 8” x 17”
Courtesy of the artist

Robin Grass (Everett)
*Deus Ex Machina*, 2017
Acrylic, 36” x 36”
Courtesy of the artist

Parasailing, 2017
Acrylic, 40” x 30”
Courtesy of the artist

Dave Hammaker (East Freedom)
*Burning Man*, 2017
Archival pigment photographic print on paper, 20” x 31”
Courtesy of the artist

Fishing Companions, 2016
Archival pigment photographic print on paper, 31” x 22”
Courtesy of the artist

Delores Hartman (Altoona)
*Messaging*, 2018
Digital print, 23” x 33”
Courtesy of the artist

Daniel C. Helsel (Davidsville)
*Blue and White Teapot with Cherries*, 2016
Oil on linen mounted on board, 12” x 16”
Courtesy of the artist

Lynn Heverly (Altoona)
*Caffeine*, 2018
Liquid acrylic binder on canvas, 20” x 16”
Courtesy of the artist

Billie J. Hollen (Altoona)
*A New York Reflection*, 2018
Oil on canvas, 30” x 24”
Courtesy of the artist

J. Andrew Jacobs (Northern Cambria)
*Berserker Helm*, 2018
Forged and fabricated steel, 26” x 14” x 12”
Collection of the artist

Renee Keil (Pittsburgh)
*Lacrima Azzura (The Blue Tear)*, 2017
Watercolor, 10” x 8”
Courtesy of the artist

Yong Sook Kim-Lambert (Magog, Quebec)
*Cerulean*, 2018
Acrylic on canvas, 18” x 24”
Courtesy of the artist

Gene Kravits (Ligonier)
*Eagles Watch over Loyalhanna Watershed*, 2017
Acrylic on canvas, 38” x 24”
Courtesy of the artist

Marianne S. Krizner (Johnstown)
*One Hundred and Twenty Seconds*, 2018
Oil on canvas, 24” x 18”
Courtesy of the artist

Maxine Levin (State College)
*Sweet in Love*, 2013
Fiber, wood, wire, acrylic, found objects, cultured pearl earrings, and glitter,
17” x 10” x 12”
Courtesy of the artist

Lance Marks (Hollspopple)
*Prophecy*, 2017
Oil on canvas, 48” x 60”
Courtesy of the artist

John A. Mayer (New Alexandria)
*Glorybella*, 2017
Masonry over metal armature,
60” x 24” x 24”
Courtesy of the artist

Dave McCoy (Hollidaysburg)
*Come In*, 2016
Oil on canvas, 25” x 19”
Courtesy of the artist

Out of the Fog, 2017
Digital print, 19” x 30”
Courtesy of the artist

THEATRE CHAIR, 2017
Oil on canvas, 33” x 17”
Courtesy of the artist

Dai Morgan (Pittsburgh)
*Wind Chill #2*, 2018
Acrylic, 28” x 34”
Courtesy of the artist
Glenda and Michael Forosisky Third Place Award
Kevin O’Toole
414-17, 2017
Walnut and enamel, 22 1/8" x 17 1/4" x 5"
Courtesy of the artist
Nancy Ntelios-Sarangoulis (Reading)
*Untitled Bird Painting*, 2018
Watercolor on paper, 20” x 30”
Courtesy of the artist

*Untitled Bird Painting (Three Mountains)*, 2018
Watercolor on rice paper, 25” x 14”
Courtesy of the artist

Chuck Olson (Indiana)
*Laureate*, 2017
Acrylic on canvas, 75” x 59”
Courtesy of the artist

*The Wall*, 2018
Acrylic on canvas, 74” x 60”
Courtesy of the artist

Kevin O’Toole (Greensburg)
*414-17, 2017*
Walnut and enamel, 22 1/8” x 17 1/4” x 5”
Courtesy of the artist

*415-17, 2017*
Walnut and silver leaf, 36” x 9” x 9”
Courtesy of the artist

Barb Pennypacker (State College)
*Jolene – A Baby Ayrshire*, 2018
Oil on linen, 12” x 16”
Courtesy of the artist

William Pfahl (Pittsburgh)
*Slop Sink*, 2017
Oil, 24” x 18”
Courtesy of the artist

John Rita (Altoona)
*Joan’s Vision*, 2017
Oil on canvas, 60” x 48”
Courtesy of the artist

*Meeting of Genres*, 2018
Mixed media on canvas on foamboard, 48” x 72”
Courtesy of the artist

*The Offering*, 2017
Oil on canvas, 60” x 48”
Courtesy of the artist

Joseph Ryznar (Lower Burrell)
*Homage to Anastasi*, 2016
Acrylic and hardware on canvas, 46” x 46”
Courtesy of the artist

*Sunday Morning – Another Day without Sunshine*, 2015
Acrylic on canvas, 42” x 42”
Courtesy of the artist

Bonnie Samms-Overley (Altoona)
*Grandmother*, 2016
Fiber sculpture, 11” x 10” x 10”
Courtesy of the artist

April Scimio (Spruce Creek)
*Bonfire of the Vanities*, 2018
Acrylic paint on canvas, 20” x 16”
Courtesy of the artist

Brian Sesack (Pittsburgh)
*Canyon Trail*, 2017
Archival inkjet print, 11 1/4” x 15 1/2”
Courtesy of the artist

*Snow Fence*, 2015
Archival inkjet print, 11 1/4” x 15 1/2”
Courtesy of the artist

Stephanie Sheridan (Carrolltown)
*Fenstella*, 2013
Fabric, 54” x 64”
Courtesy of the artist

John Skrabalak (Altoona)
*Underfoot*, 2018
Oil and cold wax, pan pastels on wooden cradled panel, 16” x 16”
Courtesy of the artist

Sarah Smicker (Ebensburg)
*Autumn; Fall Princess*, 2018
Acrylic, ink and watercolor on canvas, 20” x 16”
Collection of the artist

*Dying Flower*, 2017
Charcoal, 9” x 12”
Collection of the artist

Jeanne Stevens-Sollman (Bellefonte)
*The New Peace Talks*, 2018
Mixed media, 6” x 5”
Courtesy of the artist

Stuart Thompson (Whitney)
*Reality Comes and Goes*, 2018
Oil on canvas, 54” x 72”
Courtesy of the artist

Sharon Wall (Altoona)
*Winter Teasel*, 2018
Acrylic media and fabric dyes on cotton collaged onto canvas, 48” x 36”
Courtesy of the artist

Mary Wiley-Lewis (Central City)
Silk, 2016
Pastel on sanded paper, 23 1/2” x 19 1/2”
Courtesy of the artist

Diana L. Williams (New Florence)
*Our Forever Friend*, 2018
Oil on linen, 48” x 36”
Collection of the artist
Marian and Dr. Owen K. Morgan Third Place Award
Joseph Ryznar
*Homage to Anastasi*, 2016
Acrylic and hardware on canvas, 46” x 46”
Courtesy of the artist
Vanessa Houser, Executive Director

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