

THE GALLERY

MARCH/APRIL 2020

ISSUE 55

sama-art.org

DERBY DAY ANNUAL GALA



Reserve your tickets today by visiting sama-art.org or call 814.472.3921 today!



Winsome Estates to Host SAMA's 44th Annual Gala

Grab your big hats and bow ties for this year's SAMA Gala to be held on May 2nd, Kentucky Derby race day. The Derby Day Gala will be hosted at the extraordinary Winsome Estate and Stables in Hollidaysburg; it is the perfect location for this Derby-themed event scheduled from 5-10 PM.

The evening will be one to remember with delicious butlered hors d'oeuvres, mint juleps and other Derby-themed treats. The race will be live on a huge screen displayed in the paved riding rink. Post race will be an exciting live auction featuring vacation trips, including one with a private jet, art, a remarkable garden fountain, dining and sports experiences. The Casinos will be open all evening and located in the large stalls; with your winnings can buy beautiful, bountiful gift baskets. The silent auction will be set up like little private shops

that will feature fun and unique items: Christmas and a spa boutique are some of the themes.

The night will be filled with music, laughter, the clinking of glasses and lots of dancing to a seven-piece band from Philadelphia whose lead singer was on the TV show The Voice. The "Big House Band" will play from 7-10 PM.

Our annual Gala is the largest fund-raiser for our five museums that bring art programs to all, including school districts, centers for our veterans and senior centers throughout our six-county service region. This couldn't happen without the support and generosity of our sponsors, patrons and attendees for all of the SAMA events.

Please join us this year for an incredible Derby Day Gala on May 2nd. Those attending this wonderful evening will be glad they made early reservations.

Inside this issue



DONALD M. ROBINSON BIENNIAL 2020

ON VIEW FROM APR 17 - JUN 6, 2020 IN LORETTO

Page 2



ARTISTS OF THE 21st CENTURY

VIEW THE STUNNING WORKS OF STUDENT ART

Page 4



SUMMER ART CAMPS & WORKSHOPS FOR KIDS

START PLANNING YOUR KIDS SUMMER FUN NOW

Page 7

We've launched our new web site. Visit sama-art.org for the latest news!



FIND US ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM

PLAN YOUR VISIT TODAY!



Donald M. Robinson Photography Biennial

A SNAPSHOT OF THE BIENNIAL 2020



April 17, 2020 - June 6, 2020

Linda Benedict-Jones will serve as the exhibition Juror and Awards Juror. Benedict-Jones is a photographer, writer, and independent curator based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.



Linda Benedict-Jones, shown in Carnegie Museum's gallery. Photo: Josh Franzos

In 2015, Benedict-Jones retired from being the first Curator of Photography at Carnegie Museum of Art. She has also served as Executive Director of Silver Eye Center for Photography and Curator of Education at The Frick, both in Pittsburgh. She taught courses in the history of photography at Carnegie Mellon University for 18 years, from 1999 to 2017. Before moving to Pittsburgh in 1993, Benedict-Jones was Curator of The Polaroid Collection and director of Polaroid's Clarence Kennedy Gallery in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She studied at Minor White's Creative Photography Laboratory at MIT where she earned a Master's Degree in Visual Studies in 1982.

Benedict-Jones will host a roundtable discussion with award winners on May 14 from 10 AM to 12 PM. Brunch will be open to the public and SAMA members. The cost is \$10 per person.

On the afternoon of May 14 from 4 to 5 PM, Benedict-Jones will speak on a historic overview of landscape photography. Refreshments and desserts will be provided. The presentation will be free to the public.

A reception celebrating the exhibition will be held from 6 to 8 PM on Friday, May 15. The cost is \$20 per person.

Landscapes by Donald M. Robinson will be on display in the Margery Wolf-Kuhn Gallery.

Vlogging Workshop for ages 8 to 12, on May 9, 10 AM - 2 PM. The workshop will be instructed by professional videographer Charlie McLanahan, owner of Adapt Creative Company in Bedford, and Sarah Baumbach, owner of Maker Studio in Hollidaysburg. The instructors will lead this course in a fun, engaging and creative format. Cost is \$25 per child.



Tots from the 2019 Egg Hunt

Reservations are requested by calling the Museum at (724) 238-6015. SAMA appreciates donations to help support the program.

EGGcellent Hunting

Ligonier Valley will host its 4th annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 28, 2020 at 1 PM (rain or shine)

Children of all ages are encouraged to participate in the hunt for Easter eggs hidden throughout the Museum's gardens and lawn.

Gather your little bunnies and hop on over for an egg-citing Easter egg hunt at SAMA. We

will have eggs galore in our beautiful gardens that will just be starting to show the first signs of spring. Our young guests can exchange their eggs for a wide variety of toys and treats, and we'll also be offering hands-on art activities, face painting, and more.

Masked in Mystery, Draped in Elegance

SAMA Bedford's Second Annual Crystal Soirée, this year's theme was a masked black & white ball held on January 25, 2020.



Bedford VSA, Michal Wiles

Guests who didn't want to wear a mask had the option to have artist Jessica Benton, of Serafina Art Studio, paint one.

The Crystal Soiree 2020 was an event to remember! With hundreds of guests all participating in the theme of the black and white masked ball, the Omni Bedford Springs was abundant with creativity and secrecy. Each mask was unique and mysterious as guests wore them even while dancing to the live music of the Josh Squared Band out of Cumberland, MD.

Elegantly decorated with black and white balloons, there were opportunities for guests to have their picture taken by a professional photographer with the event's very own custom backdrop. The evening bustled with silent auctions, and live auctions under the direction of Tim Rigby and Dale Mishler who expertly navigated the instant responses of the crowd.



A Special Thank You

Much work and energy goes into planning large events. We would like to thank the Co-Chairs, Sandy & Chip Hughes and Paula & Dean Lemley, and committee members Morgan Young, Keith Landis, Jennifer Judd, and Mari-Pat Beene for the extraordinary efforts to make this event a night to remember.

The crescendo of the night, and one of our biggest successes, was Giving for a Cause. It is during Giving for a Cause that showcased the biggest hearts in the room that benefited both organizations.

The elegance of the night was complimented by the fine cuisine provided by Omni Bedford Springs, complete with table wines graciously donated to the event. The whole evening was an event not to be missed! Our success was in raising funds for SAMA Bedford and Bedford County Humane Society that benefit our community through such a memorable event.

LET'S ASK THE ARTIST

We asked artist **BOB ZABROSKY** a few questions about his experience with SAMA's AIR program.

How long have you been an Artist for SAMA's AIR program?
Eight years.

What is your favorite part of working in SAMA's AIR program?
I like being able to work with all the Art Educators and students in our region.

What inspires your projects when working with students?
I listen to the suggestions and input from the students and art teacher, then we collectively develop a creative piece.

What main goals do you wish to accomplish through your residencies?
Provide knowledge and inspiration to the Art teacher and students. Also, in some cases, add creative aesthetics to the school.

What impact do you wish to make?
I hope that some of the students would be inspired to venture into art.



Teaching Artist, Bob Zabrosky

The Artist is In ... Residence

SAMA's Artist-in-Residence program partners with UPMC Altoona, for one of our most recent projects. *A Rich History, A Bright Future*, a mural measuring at 18' by 6' created by Lynne Magee, SAMA Teaching Artist, and Hollidaysburg Senior High art students.

Magee explained, "Through researching and discussing and debating the images to include in the design of the mural, student artists became more aware of the rich and diverse history of the community in which they live."

This project was a collaboration between UPMC Altoona, SAMA and Hollidaysburg Area School District through the efforts of Tim Balconi, President of the UPMC Altoona Foundation, and Jess Campbell, Education Coordinator for SAMA.

Balconi stated, "UPMC Altoona and its foundation are pleased to partner with SAMA to support the Artist-in-Residence program. The skillful direction of artist Lynne Magee coupled with the hard work and creativity of the student artists has resulted in a beautiful mural that reflects many iconic locations from our area. Images in the mural represent many of the communities served by UPMC Altoona and are sure to be recognized by visitors to the hospital. The sense of familiarity and community the mural conveys is a comfort to all who view it."

Currently, *The Heart of Hometowns* is on display at SAMA Loretto as part of the Artists of the 21st Century Exhibition. It will be installed and unveiled at UPMC Altoona on Friday, May 15, 2020 at 11 AM where it will permanently reside.

Magee chose the Hollidaysburg art program to create this large-scale mural. Twenty high school seniors, art students of

Alysia Watt, worked for two months on this challenging endeavor. Magee said, "I was very excited to be part of a challenging collaboration that involved SAMA, UPMC, Alysia Watt, our outstanding coordinator, and most of all, the core group of truly inspiring and inspired students from Hollidaysburg High School. They worked tirelessly through all stages of the mural's creation. Hopefully the students experienced the value and reward of collaboration in art and in life."

"SAMA's partnership with UPMC Altoona has resulted not only in a beautiful mural but we additionally display of over 40 original works of art which are throughout the hospital in patient and visitor areas. The presence of art helps to make a hospital more welcoming to staff and visitors alike," Balconi said.

UPMC Altoona will be hosting an unveiling/dedication of the mural in the cafeteria on Friday, May 15 at 11:00 AM.

Students who participated in this project: Catherine Anderson, Allison Barton, Alayna Brown, Ava Brown, Jordyn Burkey, Emma Cummings, Sawyer Glass, Maggie Greenland, Megan Hemminger, Taylor Hileman, Sarah Isenberg, Makayla Koelle, Conor McKeirnan, Hannah Merriman, Teagan Nichols, James Roberts, Zoie Romagna, Meghan Snyder, Kara Vyborny, and Zachary Wyland.
Art Teacher: Alysia Watt.



THE HEART OF HOMETOWNS MURAL ON VIEW NOW

This mural is a representation of the landmarks in the surrounding areas of Southwestern Pennsylvania. Above: Detail section of panels. Below: *The Heart of Hometowns* mural can be viewed at SAMA Loretto's Artists of the 21st Century Exhibition.



LET'S ASK THE ARTIST

We asked artist **SHARON WALL** a few questions about her experience with **SAMA's AIR program**.

How long have you been an Artist for SAMA's AIR program?
Approximately 4 years.

What is your favorite part of working in SAMA's AIR program?
I enjoy meeting new people and sharing art techniques with them. It's exciting to visit various parts of Central PA.

What inspires your projects when working with students?
The teacher or facilitator usually has a specific medium or theme in mind and I work with them to design the residency. My specialty is textile art and mixed media, so I am called on to design projects in those areas. I try to adapt projects to fit all age and skill levels.

What main goals do you wish to accomplish through your residencies?
One of my main goals is to introduce students to fabric art and some of the techniques involved with it. Also I hope that I am able to provide the teacher with support and expertise.

What impact do you wish to make?
Creating art is a journey. I hope that the participants enjoy the day-by-day steps involved in creating both group and individual projects. If I can influence a few people to appreciate fabric art in a new way that is an added benefit.

ILLUSTRATED PARANORMAL

SAMA LIGONIER TO HOST PARANORMAL RESEARCHER STAN GORDON'S ILLUSTRATED HISTORIC SYNOPSIS OF PENNSYLVANIA'S UFOS AND BIGFOOT ENCOUNTERS

SAMA Ligonier welcomes back, renowned paranormal researcher of UFO and Bigfoot phenomena, Mr. Stan Gordon. This year, Stan will present his new lecture titled, "An Illustrated Historic Synopsis of Pennsylvania's UFOs and Bigfoot Encounters" on Wednesday, March 25. The program will begin at 6 PM and last approximately two hours with time for a question and answer session. The cost for the program is \$10 per person. Reservations are required and can be made by contacting the Museum at 724-238-6015 or ligonier@sama-art.org.

Stan's illustrated lecture covers some early history of mysterious events in Pennsylvania, from the government investigation of UFO sightings to the continuous strange events along the Chestnut Ridge. Learn details about the famous UFO-creature case that occurred on Presque Isle Beach, to the mass UFO-Bigfoot wave in the early 1970's. You will hear about some of the most

detailed UFO and Bigfoot encounters that have taken place in the Keystone State. Some stranger aspects of both UFO's and Bigfoot cases will also be discussed.

Gordon has been taking calls on UFO sightings and other strange reports from the public since 1969 and continues to receive unusual reports on a regular basis. He produced the award-winning UFO video documentary, "Kecksburg The Untold Story." Moreover, Gordon has written three books, *Silent Invasion: The Pennsylvania UFO-Bigfoot Casebook*, *Really Mysterious Pennsylvania*, and *Astonishing Encounters: Pennsylvania's Unknown Creatures*. He has made appearances on television outlets such as the History and Discovery Channel, Syfy Channel, Fox News Channel, and numerous others. Gordon is frequently featured on radio programs as well, both nationally and internationally, to discuss his findings within the field of paranormal research. Join us on Wednesday, March 25 at 6 PM here at SAMA Ligonier to meet Stan and get the latest updates! This event is charitably sponsored by First Commonwealth Bank.



WORKSHOP

LINOLEUM BLOCK PRINTMAKING

This workshop coincides with the “Artists of the 21st Century” exhibition featuring works by students throughout Westmoreland County. Those participating in the workshop will have the opportunity to explore their peer’s work.

SAMA Ligonier Valley is hosting a special student workshop for teens ages 13-18 years old on

Saturday,
March 14, 2020
from 2-4 PM.
You will learn the fascinating concepts of relief printing.

Join us for a guided class where you start by drawing an original

DATE: MARCH 14, 2020
COST: \$20 PER PERSON
AGES: 13-18
RSVP BY MAR. 12

image, then transferring your unique design to a linoleum block, and finally carving the linoleum to obtain the lines and textures needed to print your one-of-a-kind image. You will create several of your own prints and a complete set of note cards by the end of the workshop.

Ligonier Happenings Past & Future



Ligonier Chamber of Commerce Breakfast

The Chamber Breakfast was hosted on January 8th to 40 members. The Auxiliary made delicious homemade food that delighted our guests.



Poetry Out Loud

Ligonier Valley hosted a Poetry Out Loud Competition January 30th. Samantha Michaels from Saint Francis University’s Upward Bound Program will head to Harrisburg for the State Competition held at the State Museum in March.



Save the Dates!

Watercolor Class: 04.04 @ 1-4 PM
Luncheon: 04.16
Fashion Show & Purse Auction: 04.18

PLAN YOUR SUMMER KIDS CAMP

Summer is right around the corner and kids thrive engaging activities and our art camps are the perfect outlet! Reserve your spot today!

SAMA Altoona Art Camp

Ages: 8-14
Dates: July 27-31, August 3-7
Time: 1 PM to 3:30 PM
Reception: August 7 at 2:30 PM
Teacher: Deb Bunnell,
SAMA Teaching Artist
RSVP: 814-946-4464

SAMA Bedford Art Camp

August dates to be announced.
Please visit our web site for the most up-to-date info.

SAMA Loretto Art Camp

Ages: 5-14
Title: Confetti Camp
Dates: July 13-17
Time: 12:30 PM to 3:30 PM
Reception: July 17 at 2:30 PM
Teacher: Sarah Baumbach,
Maker Studio
RSVP: 814-472-3920

SAMA Ligonier Art Camps

Title: Create and Play
Ages: 5-9
Dates: 1 week - July 6-10, 2020
Time: 9 AM to 12 PM
Reception July 10 at 10 AM
Teacher: Amy Roadman,
SAMA Teaching Artist

Ages: 10-16
Title: Welcome Back Water
Dates: 2 weeks - July 20-31
Time: 1 PM to 4 PM
Reception: July 31 at 2 PM
Teacher: Rita Haldeman,
SAMA Teaching Artist
RSVP: 724-236-6015



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Daily Hours: 11 AM - 5 PM Friday 11 AM - 7 PM Closed Tuesdays

Johnstown

450 Schoolhouse Road Johnstown, PA 15904

Hours: Monday-Friday 9 AM - 4 PM

Ligonier

One Boucher Lane & Route 711 South Ligonier, PA 15658

Hours: Tuesday-Friday 10 AM - 5 PM Saturday 1 PM - 5 PM

Loretto

112 Franciscan Way P.O. Box 9 Loretto, PA 15940

Hours: Tuesday-Friday 10 AM - 5 PM Saturday 1 PM - 5 PM



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