

# THE GALLERY

JAN/FEB 2021

ISSUE 57

sama-art.org

## DON'T MISS ALTOONA'S VIRTUAL LECTURE SERIES

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virtual events at all our  
locations!



## Southwestern Pennsylvania Council for the Arts Exhibition

Ligonier will celebrate the work of local artists with the Southwestern Pennsylvania Council for the Arts 25th Annual Regional Juried Art Exhibition. On view November 15 through January 31, the exhibition features work by artists from 19 southwestern counties of Pennsylvania. Featured works will span a variety of media including acrylic, oil, pastel, photography, watercolor, wood, masonry, and many others. This installment marks the seventeenth

consecutive year SAMA Ligonier will host this amazing exhibition. This year also marks the council's 25th anniversary.

Since its inception, the exhibition has become known for its freshness and energy of emerging young artists and the dazzling presentations of established artists developing a new direction with their art. Serving as this year's juror is artist and professor, William Mammarella. He is the Chair of Fine Art and  
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For the most up-to-date information on exhibit and event hours and operational changes, please visit each SAMA sites' [facebook](#) page.



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PLAN YOUR VISIT TODAY!

# BIENNIAL 2020 EXHIBITION ON VIEW AT LORETTO

October 16, 2020 – January 23, 2021



## Special thanks to this year's exhibit sponsors

Best of Show:  
Barry H. Newborn

First Place:  
Chantel Ventura

Second Place:  
Dr. Magdi & Karen Azer

Third Place:  
Laura DeFazio

Third Place:  
Glenda & Michael Forosisky

Third Place:  
Marian & Dr. Owen K. Morgan

Third Place:  
Dr. Magdi & Karen Azer

People's Choice:  
Ed & Barb O'Brien

***People's Choice Award  
winner to be announced  
upon exhibition close on  
social media. Visit Loretto to  
vote for your favorite today!***

Despite this year's challenges, artists of this region continue to find inspiration for expressing their talents in many diverse and stimulating ways. More than sixty artists from throughout Pennsylvania participated in this year's Biennial 2020 Exhibition in Loretto. SAMA's Biennial is considered to be one of Pennsylvania's top exhibitions for contemporary local artists, and this installment features 101 works in photography, watercolor, wood, oil, clay, bronze, pastel, pencil, acrylic, and mixed media, among others. The Museum's juried exhibition occurs every two years and highlights the very best in regional artistic talent. Serving as both selection and award juror was Laura DeFazio.

Laura DeFazio is a Professor of Art at California University of PA, where she's taught since 1997. Her teaching areas include a wide variety of studio art and art history courses, as well as courses in Islamic art and architecture. She sculpts life-size figures, and has created several works of permanent public art. Her media are primarily large-

scale carved stone and cast concrete. Imagery that runs through her work include animals, humans, and nature. Ms. DeFazio's landscape designs create interactive spaces for adults and children, with walkways and seating for public use, in addition to sculpture, carved stone drawings, and sometimes fiber elements. Her works can be seen in libraries, parks, or playgrounds throughout Western Pennsylvania. She resides in Pittsburgh with her German Shepherd, Bindi.

View this exhibit and the featured award winners through January 23, 2021. Margaret Black of Boswell was awarded Best of Show for her fiber piece, *Critter 4*. Helen Gorsuch of Altoona was awarded First Place for her Raku sculpture, *Samurai's Cat*. William Pfahl of Pittsburgh was awarded Second Place for his oil painting, *Shoah*. Four Third Place awards were given to Ron Donoughe of Pittsburgh for *Housebacks*, Dave Hammaker of East Freedom for *Temple of Sinawava*, Anni Matsick of Boalsburg for *Welcome In* and Elise Philips of Elverson for *Beach Day*.

**Special thanks to exhibiting artists, Brian Dumm, Helen Gorsuch, and Ron Donoughe who participated in the Artist Café, a series of lectures, hosted by the museum in lieu of an exhibit opening due to current gathering restrictions.**

## SPCA Art *(from page 1)*

Assistant Professor at the Pennsylvania College of Art and Design. Mammarella received an MFA at the University of Delaware and a BA at Rutgers University. He won numerous awards and has exhibited his work extensively in both group and solo shows. Some recent shows include: (2014) "Contemporary Landscape", City Hall Gallery, Lancaster, PA and (2013) "The Enduring Horizon", The Gallery at Dogstar, Lancaster, PA.

## Artist Café Series

Look for more Artist Café sessions during our Artists of the 21st Century: Student Art Exhibition where our Teaching Artists will be featured.

SAMA Loretto hosted a series of Artist Café events in lieu of a traditional opening for the Biennial 2020 Exhibition. Given restrictions on indoor events, we were fortunate to have full audiences while exhibiting artists visited to discuss their artwork. Special thanks to featured exhibiting artists, Brian Dumm, Helen Gorsuch, and Ron Donoughe who participated in Artist Café, discussing their artistic process with patrons

and allowed for a question and answer session following their presentations.



Raku artist, Helen Gorsuch describes her process.

## INTIMATE ENGAGEMENTS



Bedford Site Coordinator, Morgan Young (center), asks exhibiting artists (left to right) Mari-Pat Beene, Nancy Hershberger, Shana Andrews, and Jen Judd, about their approach to their creative processes.

As museums across the globe are navigating new and uncertain circumstances, SAMA is coming up with new ways to connect with the community. Without the ability to host large special events, we turn instead to intimate gatherings where visitors and staff can engage personally in modified, smaller settings.

On Friday, November 13, 2020, Bedford hosted an opening reception for *The Not So Common Thread* exhibition on display through January 30, 2021. The four regional women artists were at the opening

reception to discuss their process and inspiration with an intimate gathering of interested visitors. For anyone who missed it, you can [view the video](#) recorded live on SAMA Bedford's facebook page.

*The Not So Common Thread* is exhibited in conjunction with *A Century of Women in the Arts: Selections from the Permanent Collection* at Bedford in support of the 100th anniversary of the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment, guaranteeing and protecting women's constitutional right to vote.



## OktoberFest Success

Altoona Celebrated Autumn with Downtown Oktoberfest.

In a new event, SAMA Altoona energized the newly completed Don Devorris Pavilion in Heritage Plaza with a full day of live music, a biergarten, food trucks, and local vendors. The biergarten featured several local and regional breweries and offered guests the option to try over ten brews. Local bands provided live music throughout the day, and food trucks kept everyone well fed.

To stay up-to-date on SAMA's upcoming events, check out our [calendar](#) of events online and like our [facebook](#) pages.



## ARTISTS OF THE 21st CENTURY

With the return of Artists of the 21st Century, the museum's twenty-third annual student art exhibition, SAMA will continue its tradition of celebrating the area's talented young artists. Student artwork will be displayed at Loretto and Ligonier. This exhibition is sponsored by the Sigma Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa International Honorary Organization for Women Educators.

Held in conjunction with National Youth Art Month, the exhibition is open to schools that participate in SAMA's Arts-in-Education or Artist-in-Residence programs. Each participating school district is permitted to submit up to 25 individual projects and two group projects. Through the programs, SAMA educators and professional artists travel to public and parochial schools to provide lessons designed to enhance students' understanding of art creation, technique, history, criticism and aesthetics. SAMA's award-winning education initiative is the largest of its kind in the Commonwealth.

This project was made possible through the AIE Partnership of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency. State government funding for the arts depends upon an annual appropriation by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and support from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. The PCA Arts-in-Education Partner in this region is the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art.

### EXHIBITION DATES

Ligonier

Feb. 12, 2021 – Apr. 18, 2021

Loretto

Feb. 5, 2021 – Apr. 3, 2021

# Arts in Education

SAMA is working on virtual residencies this year as COVID-19 has put students at home or limited visitors at school districts.

SAMA Teaching Artists will have the opportunity to attend a virtual professional development workshop with Rand Whipple and Box of Light to create and execute virtual residencies while learning best practices and various platforms to enhance their residency experiences. We are working on creating art kits to send to local schools to ensure students have the materials they need to work with one of our teaching artists.

We are planning to launch these virtual residencies in January. We are looking to work with public or private schools, senior centers, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Home School groups, etc. For more information or if you're interested in a virtual residency for your organization please contact Jess Campbell at 814-472-3920 or [jcampbell@sama-art.org](mailto:jcampbell@sama-art.org).

## Mural Project

Watch this mural come to life! Students were recorded live working on this mural project. Use the youtube link if viewing newsletter on a computer, or go to our youtube page at [www.youtube.com/SAMAArtOnline](http://www.youtube.com/SAMAArtOnline) to find the CH Mural, Fall 2020 video.

During September and October students at Cambria Heights Elementary worked with SAMA Teaching Artist, Deb Bunnell to create an interactive mural for the school library. Due to COVID-19, the school had two core groups that met after school to ensure safety of all participating students.

The subject of the mural is a tree on a shady bank overlooking

farmland, like the students see all around them. Each student was able to select one image to hide within the mural. The students learned about George Seurat, pointillism and optical blending. They also learned about color theory and dotted away to create a wonderful mural that created a beautiful space in the library.



# THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE CAMERA

The newest exhibition at SAMA Altoona opens early January. This exhibition spans three galleries and dives into the history of photography, contemporary artists' experimentations with it, and the influence and success of artwork reproducibility in the late 1900s. With installations, historic photographs, and masterpieces, this exhibition has something everyone, and is sponsored by Mr. & Mrs. Michael Streuber.

## Pictorialism

The Wolf Gallery will host late 1800s/early 1900s photographs from our permanent collection. Artists such as Alfred Steiglitz, Edward Weston, Margaret Bourke White, Edward Curtis, and Edward Steichen. These giants of photography all were, at one time or another, working toward the goals of a popular artistic movement called Pictorialism.



When photography was invented, it was considered a tool to capture reality, not an tool for artistic expression. These Pictorialists pushed photography away from documenting reality in a straightforward manner, and instead, they created a movement embracing styles and techniques popularized in painting in their photography.

## A New Era

The Pechter Gallery will exhibit contemporary artists who use photography as an element of their artistic practice. Some artists use sculpture, fiber art, 3-D rendering software and installation while also using photographic techniques such as darkroom printing, digital

manipulation, and scanning.

It's an exploration of the contemporary art world's loose definitions of photography. In the Pechter Gallery, guests will question the definitions of photography

today while also seeing how the ideas from the Pictorialists have blossomed in this new era.

Artists include April Friges, Chris McGinnis, Heather Brand, Patty Kennedy-Zafred, Eric D.

Charlton, Huang Guaier and Wang Runzhong, Laura Krasnow, Lori Hepner, and Zeshan Ahmed.

## Replications

The Detwiler Gallery will tie into the other two shows by considering replication. The reproducibility of artwork became fuel for artists such as Josef Albers, Andy Warhol, and Robert Rauschenburg, who all benefitted from fast and accurate methods of printing. This gallery embraces the replication processes by showcasing artworks from the museum's permanent collection from the artists listed above and others.

## EVENTS

### Think Pink is Postponed

After years of hosting the joyful fundraiser that supports breast cancer research and Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art, this year marks the first year that SAMA had to postpone Think Pink. But do not fear—SAMA will return with Think Pink in 2021! We can't wait to listen to the Dueling Ivories with you again soon.

### Online Lecture Series

Altoona will host a weekly virtual lecture series designed to present the artworks of the contemporary artists while highlighting the importance of the two galleries of permanent collection pieces. These scholarly conversations will explore the medium of photography through its history, contemporary uses, and its possible future. Guests can attend the conversation online or watch the recording after the event.

January 4th, 2021 at 12:30 PM  
**Pictorialism and Society's History**  
with Patty Kennedy-Zafred

January 11th, 2021 at 12:30 PM  
**Technology and Its Artistic Legacy**  
with Eric Charlton and Lori Hepner

January 19th, 2021 at 12:30 PM  
**Manipulation and the Conflict of Analog and Digital Photography**  
with Laura Krasnow and Zeshan Ahmed

January 25th, 2021 at 12:30 PM  
**The Audience, the Installation, the Photograph** with Huang Guaier, Wang Runzhong, and Chris McGinnis

February 1st, 2021 at 12:30 PM **Color and Sound**  
with April Friges and Heather Brand

February 8th, 2021 at 12:30 PM  
**The Role of Replication in Pop Art and Photography** with curator Hannah Harley and guest

Register for these events and others on our website [events page](#).

# Welcome & Congratulations

Altoona Site Coordinator Awarded "Foremost Under Forty"

Hannah Harley joined the team at SAMA Altoona this August as their new site coordinator. She was recently awarded "Foremost Under Forty", a distinction from Pennsylvania Business Central. Prior to joining the museum in August, Harley was the founding director of Spruce Arts, an art residency program based out of Indiana, PA. Harley's final project as director with Spruce Arts included a mural program that brought professional muralists to Indiana, PA to create

fourteen murals in the historic downtown. In this collaborative project with Dripped on the Road, visiting artists hosted workshops for local artists and planted 100 trees to offset the carbon produced by this public art initiative. In addition, Harley facilitated a grant funded, twelve part workshop series and created an art activity book for Indiana County artists to make it easier for artists and students to create artwork at home. In the past year, Harley has taught at Point Park University, Youngstown



State University, and completed her studies at University of Pennsylvania before transitioning to her new position at Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art in Altoona, PA.

## Donald M. Robinson Biennial

at Loretto April 16, 2021  
- June 26, 2021

The Robinson Biennial Exhibition is a juried exhibition attracting photographers from across the commonwealth. Students of Pennsylvania colleges and universities are encouraged to apply and qualified jurors identify those photography submittals most worthy of recognition and award a prize pool to include Best of Show, First Place, Second Place, and Third Place. The juror of the exhibition will be Linda Benedict-Jones. Landscapes by Donald M. Robinson will supplement the exhibit on display in the Margery Wolf-Kuhn Gallery.

## FUTURE EXHIBITS

Whether we meet in-person or online, tours, lectures, workshops and educational programs will continue to be a part of our mission.

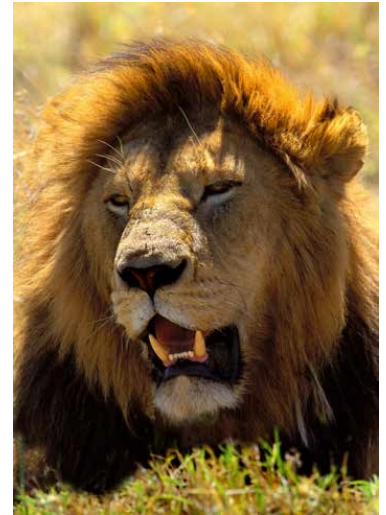
### Major Works from the Permanent Collection and Old Master Prints at Bedford January 16, 2021 - March 27, 2021

Major Works from the Permanent Collection and Old Master Prints blend in a beautiful arrangement in the Titelman Galleries. SAMA Bedford is excited to announce that the walls will be adorned with some of the World's most renowned and sought-after artisans. Artists spanning centuries are brought together in an eclectic mix of the Masters. Superior skills are on display for everyone to appreciate.

### Robert Bowden at Bedford February 6, 2021 - May 1, 2021

Robert Bowden's exhibition displays a compendium of paintings that reveals his amazing talent. A long fixture in the Pittsburgh arts scene, Bowden is noted for his beautiful works. As a painter of urban subjects, his style is to capture the city-scape with intimacy.





Lion Portrait, Kenya 1993.

## Donald M. Robinson Coloring Book

Experience the world through the eyes of Donald M. Robinson by exploring this coloring book brought to you by the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art.

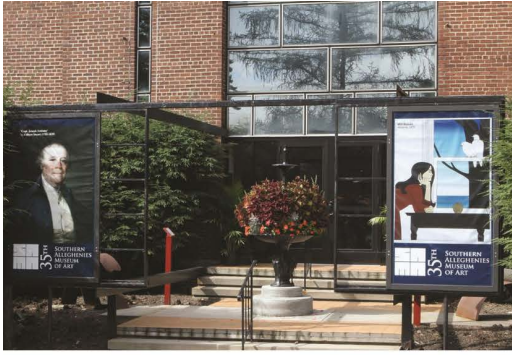
The images of Donald M. Robinson's photography contain a magical universal appeal. His mastery of the technical complexities of this medium is apparent, no matter what subject matter he chooses. The breadth of his subject matter spans over 60 countries, as he captures and then releases the diversity of our world back to our senses. Donald M. Robinson shares his vision of the natural world, the subtle moment of wildlife, the fleetingness of flora and changes of the annual seasons. The Southern Alleghenies

Museum of Art is profoundly grateful to preserve and present his work throughout the region. The Museum holds over 400 original photographs from around the world covering numerous subjects. Every page in this coloring book has been created in reflection to his photography. This booklet captures just a small portion of Robinson's prolific work. SAMA has created this coloring booklet to inspire both children and adults. Enjoy engaging with Donald M. Robinson's photography and express your own creativity. Art is for everyone and in everyone too!

## Shop at SAMA

Did you know you can now buy one-of-a-kind wares from local artists and artisans in SAMA museum stores?

Our museums are working hard to expand the selection of goods available. At SAMA Bedford, you will find unique items by local and regional artists on consignment in our stores. We have everything from handmade jewelry and ceramics to cards, prints, paintings and more. Stop by today or view the entire Bedford collection online on our website [shop page](#).



## SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES MUSEUM OF ART WELCOMES

# A NEW YEAR

by Sarah Henrich, director and senior curator

At the close of 2020, SAMA has had an opportunity to look back over a challenging year, as well as look forward into a new and uncharted period, as we slowly begin to return to a more predictable calendar of events and programs. Throughout this year the Board and Staff have been preparing for re-accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums. A lengthy self-study was conducted by the staff and Board reviewing policies and procedures, programs, events, fundraising and administrative management of the museum and its facilities. This process provided a useful tool to critically evaluated what the museum does, how it meets its mission, what benchmarks it has achieved and where it seeks to improve to meet the needs of our audience. A two-day interview was conducted in December with the Board and Staff by AAM reviewers Masha Turchinsky of the Hudson River Museum in NY and Dana Evans of the Shenandoah Valley Museum in Virginia. Their questions and our responses and evaluation will provide the basis for the formal review by the Accreditation Board review in February 2021.

SAMA covers over an aggregate of 5,000 square miles in Central Southwestern Pennsylvania, that is a huge territory for any museum to cover, and meet the needs of the constituents. We serve six counties, many schools, offer five distinct and unique museums which represent very different "personalities" in their programs and exhibitions. The team recognized our challenges and at the same time acknowledged the accomplishments we have made serving our region. SAMA has been here for almost 50 years, and there has been a great deal achieved over this long arch of our organizational history due to the support of members, donors, foundations, community volunteers, and the Board and Staff.

We also preserve and improve a 7,500 artwork collection in Loretto, which provides material for innovative and interesting exhibitions, educational opportunities and outreach efforts to veterans and nursing assisted living facilities. SAMA has collection material in hospitals, schools, nursing homes and in its own offices for the community to appreciate. We are now beginning an outreach program beyond our own region, offering themed traveling exhibitions of our own unique specialty collections of works by Donald M. Robinson, Colleen Browning, Michael Glannon and the robust poster collection of Mark DelCostello. This outreach and revenue generating program helps SAMA widen our sphere of influence in PA and beyond our state borders, highlighting these special collections and sharing this cultural treasure with others. In addition to these initiatives, a renewed social media program and virtual online platform will extend SAMA's footprint offering workshops, lectures, and artist's interviews related to new and upcoming exhibitions. Visually entertaining exhibitions will be offered online for those not able to visit in person once we begin open hours in the new year.

SAMA has some exciting exhibitions, programing and yes, gala events and ideas in store for you during 2021. We are now 20 years past a "Space Odyssey," but I think we just went through our own kind of Odyssey this year, one of evaluation, introspection, and renewal for the next stage of our organizational life. I hope you will partake of what we have to offer in 2021 and join with us in making the years before our 50th anniversary meaningful and filled with wonderful experiences going forward. Our re-accreditation will be decided in 2021, and I hope you will celebrate with us when we are formally approved for the next phase of SAMA's growth and dedication to the arts in Pennsylvania.





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## Altoona

1210 11th Avenue  
Altoona, PA 16601

Daily Hours:  
Tuesday - Saturday:  
12:00 PM - 4:30 PM

## Bedford

137 E. Pitt St.  
Bedford, PA 15522

Daily Hours:  
Tuesday - Saturday:  
12:00 PM - 4:30 PM

## Johnstown

450 Schoolhouse Road  
Johnstown, PA 15904

Daily Hours:  
Closed  
Reopening TBD

## Ligonier

One Boucher Lane &  
Route 711 South  
Ligonier, PA 15658

Daily Hours:  
Tuesday - Saturday:  
12:00 PM - 4:30 PM

## Loretto

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

Daily Hours:  
Tuesday - Friday:  
12:00 PM - 4:30 PM



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