

## PRESS RELEASE

### Alaska State Museum

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### Photographer's Exploration of Ice at Museum

"Whether it is the trapped air bubbles in pond ice or the majestic soaring walls of a glacier, ice has emotional stories to tell," states Anchorage photographer Hal Gage. Gage illustrates his thesis in his exhibition *Ice: A Personal Meditation*, on view at the Alaska State Museum beginning February 3.

An opening reception, sponsored by The Friends of the Alaska State Museum, will be held from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Gage will present a talk about his work at 6 p.m. Admission for the reception and talk is free. The exhibition will remain on view through April 15.

The exhibition of black and white photographs ranges from small, intimate, silver prints to larger, 40-inch-square, pigmented-ink prints. Gage's work is in the fine art tradition of West Coast landscape photographers such as Ansel Adams and Edward Weston, reflecting a strong sense of composition and an exquisite range of dark and light values. Gage says, "The interplay of tones, relationship of shapes, the implied and implicit movement, are the cast of characters that retell the emotional story of the daily play that is constantly being acted out in the world around us."

*Ice* is part of the State Museum's on-going series of Alaska artist solo exhibitions. The photographs are on a state-wide tour that includes showings in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Kenai and Homer.

Gage grew up in Anchorage and studied art at the University of Alaska, Anchorage. He has shown his work nationally and internationally since the early 1990s. He has been involved with the Alaska Photographic Center in Anchorage and at one time operated The Gallery of Contemporary Fine Art Photography there. Outside Alaska, his work is represented in galleries in Seattle, Houston and Carmel.

Gage states, "Over my past 25 years in photography, I have concentrated on trying to dig beneath the surface record that photography does so well. In choosing the landscape as my palette, I have worked through thoughts and philosophies to bring me to my working method. I have found that one learns little or nothing about a place, person or object after only one encounter. Each project, each series I work on, comes from extended exposure to my subject -- over time, over years and decades."