

PRESS RELEASE

Alaska State Museum

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: through April 7

Orvik and Seamster Art Exhibits Open at State Museum

Simultaneous one-person art exhibitions by Fairbanks painter James M. Orvik and Anchorage mixed-media artist Wanda Seamster open at the Alaska State Museum Friday, April 7. Orvik will be showing large representational landscape paintings from his wilderness travels and Seamster plans a gallery full of some 400 artist trading cards. It is the first Juneau exhibit for both artists. An opening reception, with the artists in attendance, will be held from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on the 7th, sponsored by The Friends of the Alaska State Museum. Admission is free from 4 to 7 p.m. as part of the First Friday gallery event.

Orvik is a late-bloomer as an artist. He has a doctorate in psychology and didn't begin actively painting until he retired from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, in 1988. He was a political cartoonist, briefly, for the All Alaska Weekly in Fairbanks, and in the early 1990s took university art courses, most notably under Kes Woodward.

Orvik's work gained attention in the late 1990s. Since then he has had several solo exhibitions in Fairbanks and Anchorage. Orvik paints in acrylic with a sharply detailed style. His images range from broad, northern vistas such as in the Brooks Range or Katmai National Park, to more intimate scenes of nature.

Seamster has been a fixture of the Anchorage art scene for more than a decade. Her work has appeared in numerous exhibitions in Alaska and in the Lower 48 states. She is known primarily for her drawings and collages, although she works in a variety of media. For a time she also published a newsletter called *Vizual Dog* that commented on the arts in Alaska.

She has titled her Juneau exhibit "Ricochet." It will consist of about 400 artist trading cards selected from the more than 1,700 she has produced in recent years. These small works are based on the format of sports trading cards, but contain a wide variety of imagery presented in many different media. According to Seamster, they are a popular form of art activity and exchange in Europe, Australia and British Columbia.

Both exhibitions will be on view through May 6. Hours at the museum are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. General admission is \$3. Visitors 18 and under are admitted free of charge. An annual pass that allows unlimited visits to the Alaska State Museum and the Sheldon Jackson Museum in Sitka is available for \$15.

Assistance is available for visitors with special needs. Please contact Visitor Services at 465-2901 before the visit.