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Press Release

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ARTISTS BRODY AND BELLAMY OPEN SHOWS AT THE STATE MUSEUM

Paintings of Alaska's northern wilderness, and sculptures reflecting a life spent fishing, will greet visitors to two new exhibitions opening at the Alaska State Museum Friday, February 5. The artists, Bill Brody of Fairbanks, and Annette Bellamy from Halibut Cove, are well-established figures in Alaska's art community, having won numerous awards between them. An opening reception for the two exhibitions will be held Friday from 4:30 to 7:00 pm, sponsored by The Friends of the Alaska State Museum. Admission to the museum is free as part of Juneau's First Friday Art Walk.

Brody has painted in Alaska since the 1960s. He has gained a reputation for his landscape paintings, often made during outdoor excursions in Alaska's National Parks. The paintings in this exhibit were all made in 2008, the results of a summer of painting in Denali, Wrangell-St. Elias, and Gates of the Arctic National Parks. He will also be showing panoramic photographic works that he makes by digitally combining numerous images of the remote areas where he paints.

On his website, Brody states: "I have been going into the wilderness for the past 20 years to witness the landscape by painting and drawing what it is like to be there in mind and body. I commit to this venture so long as I am able. This is my beacon, the measure against which all the rest of my art must stand... It is enormously satisfying to finish a large canvas in the field; the more difficult the subject matter, and the more challenging the terrain the better. Sometimes I force myself to break away and explore. Then I sketch and take panoramic photographs. The photographs are not source material for my paintings, but rather material for another kind of art."

Brody is also a noted printmaker, and has exhibited his prints nationwide. He taught art at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks and also worked developing virtual reality programs for the Arctic Region Supercomputing Center at the university. His work is in many public collections, among them: The Brooklyn Museum, Arizona State University, University of Alaska Museum of the North, Anchorage Museum of History and Art, Portland Art Museum, Southern Illinois University, Alaska State Art Bank, and others. He has numerous Percent for Art commissions to his credit in Alaska.

Bellamy, who has a studio in the small community of Halibut Cove, near Homer, works in ceramics, glass, steel and other materials. She has fished commercially with her husband for more than thirty years, and her sculptural works explore the materials and tools of a life lived close to the land and sea.

Her exhibit is titled “Long Lines,” about which she says: “*Long Lines* is an exhibit of mixed-media sculpture. Clay is the primary medium along with fiber, cast glass, cast iron, steel, and wood... These sculptures are about the tasks that we continue to do by hand – food gathering, mending and repair. Modern life is rapidly moving away from hand work.”

Bellamy’s work is in the collections of the Anchorage Museum and the Pratt Museum in Homer, where she has also exhibited. She has won awards in the biennial “Earth, Fire and Fibre” exhibition in Anchorage and her work is also included in this year’s exhibit, Earth, Fire and Fibre XXVII, which is currently touring the state and showing at the Alaska State Museum concurrent with the time frame of her solo show. A recent Rasmuson Foundation Individual Artist Award enabled her to complete works in iron at the University of New Mexico and to do glass work at the Pilchuck Center north of Seattle.

These exhibitions, along with Earth, Fire, and Febre XXIVV, opening February 5, will be on display through March 27.

Hours at the museum are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Discounted winter 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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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