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Press Release

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: October 17, 2013

## Three Temporary Exhibits to open November First Friday at the Alaska State Museum

JUNEAU – The Alaska State Museum will be open extended hours with free admission on First Friday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, from 4:30 – 7 p.m. The Friends of the Alaska State Museum will host an opening reception beginning at 4:30 to invite the public to attend three exhibit openings. Two solo shows will be unveiled: Juneau painter Dick Benedict's *From Out*, and Ketchikan painter David Rubin's solo exhibition. Also opening November 1<sup>st</sup> is the Alaska State Museum's exhibit called, *Ten Years of Alaskan Art: a Decade of Works Acquired through the Rasmuson Foundation Art Acquisitions Fund*.

Benedict, a self-taught artist, uses the centuries-old oil and egg tempera mixture to create surreal images on panel. Much of his work is executed using a small, diamond-shaped pallet knife, and inspiration for his paintings comes from abstract images in nature or from images from a dream. His artistic life spans more than 40 years.

Rubin, who grew up in New York City, moved to Ketchikan in 1983. He studied at the Frank Reilly League of Artists for a year in 1987 before returning to Ketchikan where he teaches art twice a week. "Everybody starts off coloring; I just never stopped," said Rubin.

Both exhibitions are part of the 2013 solo exhibition series.

*Ten Years of Alaskan Art* features a selection of pieces from the museum's permanent collection acquired through the generosity of the Rasmuson Foundation. Initiated in 2003, the Foundation's Art Acquisition Fund provides grants for Alaska museums to purchase current work by practicing Alaskan artists. The fund has donated over two million dollars to museums statewide for the purchase of art. The Alaska State Museum has shared in this significant gift, receiving 168 works of art valued at over a quarter million dollars, into the permanent collection of the Alaska State Museum—the most significant donation in terms of dollar value over time received in the 113 year history of the museum. For a list of artists whose works will be on display, please see the attached page.

All three new exhibits will be on display through January 4, 2014.

Winter hours at the museum are 10 a.m. to 4:00 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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[www.museums.alaska.gov](http://www.museums.alaska.gov)

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Artists whose works will be on display in *Ten Years of Alaskan Art: A decade of works acquired through the Rasmuson Foundation Art Acquisition Fund*:

1. Constance Baltuck
2. Rick Beasley
3. George Bennett Sr.
4. Archie Cavanaugh Jr.
5. Alex Combs
6. Beverly Cover
7. Mark Fejes
8. Mary Ellen Frank
9. Dan Fruits
10. Hal Gage
11. Nicholas Galanin
12. Steven Gordon
13. Stephen Gray
14. Lani Hotch
15. Ben Huff
16. Mike A. Jackson
17. Norman Jackson
18. Richard Kascur
19. Garry Kaulitz
20. Sonya Kelliher-Combs
21. Sue Kraft
22. Bonnie Landis
23. Ken Lisbourne
24. Charles Mason
25. Barry McWayne
26. Da-ka-xeen Mehner
27. David Mollett
28. James Orvik
29. Jeffrey Patrick
30. Rebecca Poulson
31. Fran Reed
32. Wanda Seamster
33. Delores Sloan
34. Glen C. Simpson
35. Arlene Skinner
36. Ron Senungetuk
37. Turid Senungetuk
38. Ruth Sorenson
39. Sara Tabbert
40. Jane Terzis
41. Kat Tomka
42. Ray Troll
43. Donny Varnell
44. Harold Nels Wallin
45. Kesler Woodward
46. Aleda Yourdon

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