

Linda S. Thibodeau

Director

Division of Libraries, Archives,
& Museums

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STATE OF ALASKA

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT**

Robert C. Banghart

Chief Curator

Alaska State Museums

395 Whittier St.
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1718
907.465.2901

Press Release

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: November 10, 2011

Tlingit Artist to Demonstrate Silver Carving at the Alaska State Museum

The Alaska State Museum will host artist demonstrator Ed Kunz on Saturday, November 19 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (with a short break for lunch). Kunz will demonstrate Northwest Coast silver carving. He is a Raven-Coho housemaster of the "Outwards House," in Sitka. His Tlingit name is Seitaan, and he is a child and grandchild and great grandchild of the Kaagwaantaan.

As a young boy, Kunz sat with his father as his father carved small totem poles. Later, at Mt. Edgecumbe School, he had Horace Marks as a woodcarving teacher, and also A.P. Johnson teaching leather tooling and metalwork, such as copper chasing. Kunz was introduced to silver carving by Smith Katzeek from Klukwan, in the mid 1960s. He worked with silver almost exclusively for about 30 years, with a notable exception of working with his father to carve the 26-foot raven pole that stands with the eagle pole by the Auke Tribe Council Building, now called Ga Jaa Hit. Kunz and his father carved alongside Bill Smith from Douglas, and chief carver Tommie Jimmie Sr. as those men worked on the eagle pole.

Winter hours at the museum are 10:00 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:

395 Whittier, Juneau, AK

Phone (907) 465-2901 Fax (907) 465-2976

www.museums.state.ak.us

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