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## Press Release

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: **October 26, 2010**

### **Solo Exhibition by Painter Jackie Manning to open November 5 at the Alaska State Museum**

Juneau artist Jackie Manning will display a series of paintings beginning November 5 at the Alaska State Museum. "Ghost in the Graveyard" will feature 13 large-scale paintings in mixed media. This series of Manning's work is based on a game of the same name that lives on in her memory as a favorite childhood pastime. Now an adult, she has created a visual portrayal of the game, to which she hopes both children and adult audiences will relate.

"Ghost in the Graveyard" melds hide-and-seek and tag into one high-action sport that Manning remembers as an effective means of bringing children of all ages together. Her first recollection of the playing game is as an elementary-aged youth while visiting cousins in both Ireland and Oregon. The act of running through yards, hiding behind trees and bushes and avoiding other obstacles at night was a vehicle for the young Manning to relate to other children.

As an art instructor for children over the past few years, Manning's thoughts drifted back to the world of childhood imagination. Her students' influence on her is what led her to begin this series of paintings, which features figures painted from photographs of her students in the midst of playing the game.

This body of work combines the figure in nature, a concept Manning has frequently depicted in her past work. "Ghost in the Graveyard" takes that a step further, adding the narrative of game-play that brings the figure in nature to another level.

Manning described the pieces within the series as fairly consistent with each other, though each work has its own unique characteristics that set it apart from the others. A dominant defining feature in each piece is in the materials, many of which have been collected from unusual places. Viewers are encouraged to look closely at each painting; layered underneath the top coat of paint are various organic materials, cloth, broken ceramic pieces, found bones, items passed down from family members and even childhood locks of the artist's hair.

The styles of the pieces range from surreal to abstract, some more representational than others. Manning exchanged her previously-standard subdued palette for one with more of an electric feel, representing the heightened sensations that she associates with her childhood memories of the nighttime game.

"Ghost in the Graveyard" will be on display through Jan. 15.

Winter hours at the museum are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 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:

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

[www.museums.state.ak.us](http://www.museums.state.ak.us)

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