

Linda S. Thibodeau

Director

Division of Libraries, Archives,  
& Museums

lam.alaska.gov

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT

Robert C. Banghart

Deputy Director

395 Whittier St.  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1718  
907.465.2901

Press Release

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE: November 15, 2012**

### **CARVING OUT A NICHE**

#### **Tlingit Carver/Bentwood Box Maker John Hughes Demonstrates at the Alaska State Museum**

JUNEAU – Developed over millennia, the indigenous people of Southeast Alaska forged distinctive, highly-sophisticated styles of graphic representation based on a kind of visual grammar. Comparable to a formal language, this discipline is known as “formline art” and its true masters adhere to the “rules” of its design system, while simultaneously innovating through creative self-expression.

On Saturday, November 24, from 10:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. (with a short break for lunch), local Tlingit carver and bentwood box maker John Hughes brings just such mastery to the Alaska State Museum for the third and final installment of the museum’s 2012 Saturday Native Artist Demonstrator Series.

Hughes is L’uxnaxadi, Raven, Coho, and studied at the Native Arts Center at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, listing among his mentors such esteemed formline artists as Nathan Jackson and Alvin Amason. Hughes credits the late artist Jean Flanagan Carlo with persuading him to take his art seriously. Since then, Hughes has created countless bentwood boxes, paddles, totems, silver and other metalwork, as well as what he terms “large individualistic statement pieces,” ranging from traditional to contemporary.

The demonstration closes the 2012 Saturday Native Artist Demonstrator Series. Every year, in honor of Native American Heritage Month, the Alaska State Museum presents special demonstrations throughout the month of November.

Admission is free for all Saturday Native Artist Demonstration Series events.

Winter hours are 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. 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 by contacting 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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