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Press Release

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: January 5, 2012

January First Friday at the Alaska State Museum

JUNEAU – The ASM offers local museum-goers one last free opportunity to experience three of four major exhibits that opened in fall 2011 this coming First Friday, Jan. 6 from 4:30 pm to 7 pm.

The closing shows are: “Boreal Birch: Art and Science in the Northern Forest,” featuring birch-based work by noted Alaskan artists Margo Klass, Kesler Woodward, and the late Barry McWayne, in conjunction with UAF scientist Kimberly Maher; “A Klondike Tale,” a solo exhibition by graphic artist Averyl Veliz; and a solo exhibition by landscape painter Constance Baltuck. All shows opened this past November and run through Jan. 14, 2012. “Versatile Birch: Objects from the ASM Collection,” featuring baskets, dolls, canoe models, and other traditional artifacts from the Museum’s collection, which runs through Feb. 18, 2012.

The birch exhibits juxtapose historical artifacts against contemporary pieces—all made from the bark, wood, and roots of Alaskan birch trees—while the solo art shows—both part of Alaska State Museum’s 2011 Solo Artist Series—portray two very different representations of the Last Frontier.

During the month, the museum also featured paper model making of birch bark basket and miniature canoes as well as an opportunity to make Athabascan action figures. These activities will also be available for all ages to produce on first Friday.

ASM will present its new line-up of exhibits next month, with a grand opening scheduled for February First Friday.

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.state.ak.us

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