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## Press Release

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE: January 2, 2014**

### **State Museum open on First Friday in Jan. – Solo Exhibits Soon to Close**

JUNEAU – The State Museum will be open late on First Friday, January 3, 2014, until 7 p.m. It will be the next-to-the-last time to view the two solo exhibits on display at the Museum: Juneau painter Dick Benedict's *From Out*, and Ketchikan painter David Rubin's solo exhibition. Also closing on Saturday is the museum's exhibit, *Ten Years of Alaskan Art: a Decade of Works Acquired through the Rasmuson Foundation Art Acquisition Fund*.

Juneau's own Dick 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. His artistic life spans more than 40 years.

Dave 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. The portrait-sketching youth activity he did at the museum in conjunction with the opening of his exhibit in November was wildly popular.

*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 State Museum will remain open for two more months before closing to the public on February 28, 2014 for the continued construction of the new SLAM facility. Winter hours at the museum are 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. The museum will reopen in the new State Library, Archives, and Museum building at the same location in April 2016. The new 118,000 square foot facility will feature museum galleries, a museum store, a café, a large 125-seat multi-purpose room, a classroom, a reading room, a research room, the state and historical libraries, and state archives – all under one roof.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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[www.museums.alaska.gov](http://www.museums.alaska.gov)

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