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Press Release

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE: November 18, 2011**

**FOUR GALLERIES, ONE BUILDING: A PRIME GALLERY WALK DESTINATION  
Alaska State Museum Celebrates Annual  
Juneau “Gallery Walk” with Four New Exhibits**

JUNEAU – Not one, but four recently opened exhibits make the Alaska State Museum a must-see destination for hundreds of Juneau residents planning to take part in the city’s annual holiday “Gallery Walk,” First Friday, December 2 from 4 pm to 7 pm.

The shows are: “A Klondike Tale,” a solo exhibition by graphic artist Averyl Veliz; a solo exhibition by landscape painter Constance Baltuck; “Versatile Birch: Objects from the ASM Collection,” featuring baskets, dolls, canoe models, and other traditional artifacts from the museum’s collection; and “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. All shows opened in November and run through January 14, 2012, except “Versatile Birch,” which runs through February 18, 2012.

Veliz will be in attendance at the museum during the Gallery Walk event to lead a casual discussion about her process and answer questions. The following day, she will also conduct a workshop entitled, “Designing Heroes and Villains!” as part of the youth activity series “Exploring Arts and Culture at the Alaska State Museum,” sponsored by the Friends of the Alaska State Museum and funded in part by the citizens of the City and Borough of Juneau through sales tax revenue. Call 465-2901 to pre-register or for more information.

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.

“A Klondike Tale” marks Averyl Veliz’ first major show and uses graphic arts to depict fictional characters set in turn-of-the-century Skagway. The bright, bold paintings in Constance Baltuck’s show reflect the colorful nature of Alaska’s landscapes, particularly around Juneau.

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 for more information.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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

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