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Press Release

SHELDON JACKSON MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### SHELDON JACKSON MUSEUM NATIVE ARTIST RESIDENCY PROGRAM 2015



SITKA – A popular feature of the Sheldon Jackson Museum is the visiting summer artist residency, the Native Artist Residency Program. Artists from around the state fill residencies at the museum, during which time they study the collections and share their work with the public through artist lectures, demonstrations, and hands-on classes.

This summer the museum is hosting an eclectic group of artists in residence, two of whom have never been artists in residence at the Sheldon Jackson Museum before. Each artist in residence will give a public talk or teach a free hands on class and provide a Residency Recap Talk at the end of their residency. Participating artists include Sarah Williams (Athabascan) who fills the first Mini 12-Day Residency between May 27th and June 7th and will teach a beading class; Abel Ryan (Tsimshian) who fills the first Full 21-Day Residency between June 7th and July 1st and will teach a formline design class; Drew Michael (Inupiaq/Yup'ik) who fills the second Full 21-Day Residency between June 27th and July 19th and will teach two print making classes; Neva Mathias (Cup'ik) who fills the third Full 21-Day Residency between July 22 and August 12th and will teach a doll making class and Audrey Armstrong (Athabascan) who will come to Sitka to teach a fish skin sewing class and how to make a traditional Athabascan chief's bowl between July 20th and July 25. A sixth Alaska Native artist will be brought to Sitka for a 12-day Mini Residency in August and will be announced at a later date.

For more information or to register for the workshops, contact the Sheldon Jackson Museum and visit: [http://museums.alaska.gov/sheldon\\_jackson/sjnatedemos.html](http://museums.alaska.gov/sheldon_jackson/sjnatedemos.html)

The Native Artist Residency Program has expanded this year. While we have slightly fewer residents in the program, we have increased the length of the residencies, making them either 12-Day Mini Residencies or 21-Day Full Residencies. Longer residencies enable artists to have more time to complete specific works of art and projects and greater opportunities to engage with the local community and museum visitors through classes, talks, and the new Residency Recap Talk. The Museum is also pleased to expand upon its partnership with the Sitka Fine Arts Camp with whom we will co-host two artists in residence – Abel Ryan and Drew Michael.

The Native Artist Residency Program is made possible through the support of the National Endowment for the Arts, Sitka Fine Arts Camp, Alaska Airlines, the Friends of Sheldon Jackson Museum, the Sitka Charitable Trust, and private donations. If you would like to help sponsor an artist residency at the museum, you may contact the Friends of the Sheldon Jackson Museum by calling (907) 747-6233.

Summer hours at the Sheldon Jackson Museum are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Summer admission is \$5 for adults and \$4 for seniors. Visitors 18 and under are admitted free of charge. Assistance is available for visitors with special needs. Please contact the museum for more information at 907.747.8981.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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