



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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First Friday Artist Talk with Jackson Polys at the Alaska State Library, Archives, and Museum

JUNEAU – Jackson Polys (aka Stephen Paul Jackson and Stron Softi) will give an artist talk about his work on the Seward shame pole that was raised in Saxman Totem Park in April, as the First Friday event at the Father Andrew P. Kashevaroff (APK) State Libraries, Archives, and Museum. Jackson’s September 1 presentation will begin at 7 p.m. in the lecture hall at the APK, located at 395 Whittier St.

Jackson’s Seward pole is the third iteration. The original pole was erected after Secretary of State William Seward’s 1869 visit to southeast Alaska. The Tlingit honored Seward with a potlatch and gifts that he did not reciprocate, which led to the creation of the ridicule pole. In 1941, the original pole was replaced by a Civilian Conservation Corps replica. In 2014, the second pole had deteriorated beyond repair and Jackson was selected to create a replacement. Jackson’s version features a more detailed carving of Seward’s face than its predecessor, a tribute to the original pole.

Jackson is a carver and visual artist based in Ketchikan and New York. He began carving with his father, Tlingit master carver Nathan Jackson, and obtained a BA in Art History and Visual Arts in 2013 and an MFA in visual arts in 2015 from Columbia University. As Stron Softi, he had a solo artist exhibition at the Alaska State Museum in 2009, and his piece *Not For Sale Poster 1: Sliver Hand, Silver Spooner Organ Grinder* was the Best of Show winner in the 2008 All-Alaska Juried exhibition. Jackson was recently selected to carve a Tlingit house post for the Sealaska Heritage Institute’s Walter Soboleff Building.

Prior to the presentation, the Alaska State Museum will be open free of charge from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. for First Friday. This summer’s special exhibit, *Decolonizing Alaska*, features artwork by 30 artists addressing resilience, adaptation, and cultural survival in response to dominant forces such as colonization and climate change. *Decolonizing Alaska* will be on view through October 14, 2017.

A person experiencing a disability who needs accommodation for events hosted by the Alaska State Library, Archives, and Museum can contact the Division’s ADA coordinator at (907) 465-2988 to make any necessary arrangements.

The Alaska State Library provides research services for state employees, assists historical researchers and the public, manages Talking Book services for Alaskans with visual impairments, and collects Alaska-related books, photographs, manuscripts, newspapers, government documents, and periodicals. Hours at the Alaska State Library are Tuesday-Friday from 10AM to 4PM or Mondays by arrangement. For more information about the Library and its services, please visit <http://library.alaska.gov/>.

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