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## Press Release

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: **March 5, 2010**

### **Alaskan Dolls are Topic of Museum Lecture**

Alaskan Art Dolls is the topic of a free lunch-hour lecture this Wednesday, March 17, at the Alaska State Museum. Internationally-recognized doll artist, Mary Ellen Frank, will present the talk, which begins at noon, and examples of Alaskan dolls will be on view.

Frank was introduced to the art of doll-making in 1988, when she took a class from Inupiaq doll maker Dolly Spencer at the Alaska State Museum. Over the years she has completed more than one hundred dolls of her own, many of which are portraits of actual people. She leads classes at the University of Alaska Southeast, and is curating a new museum in Juneau housing the doll collection of the late Claudia Kelsey.

Many of Frank's dolls are inspired and influenced by the collections of the Alaska State Museum and Alaska State Library. She makes detailed notes from artifacts and historical photos to help recreate traditional clothing, tools, and activities in miniature. The presentation will provide an introduction to portrait dolls and the doll-making process.

The brown-bag lecture series takes place every Wednesday, from noon to 1 p.m., through March 31. It is sponsored by the State Division of Libraries, Archives, and Museums. The series features recent research on the museum and library collections by staff and visiting scholars. In operation for over a century, the division houses a world-class collection of materials that is central to the study of Alaska history, Native cultures, and art.

Future brown bag lecture topics scheduled are:

- March 24 Anastasia Tarmann, Alaska State Library Historical Collections, discusses "The Men Behind the Masks: Letters of Alaska Native Mask Carvers from the Donald Burrus Collection"
- March 31 Ellen Carrlee, Conservator, Alaska State Museums, on "Fur, Fuzz, and Fibers: Materials ID at the Museum"

Hours at the museum are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. 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:**

Phone (907) 465-2901 Fax (907) 465-2976

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



[return to top](#)  
[press releases](#) | [Alaska State Museum](#)