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Press Release

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 29, 2013

Two New Solo Artist Exhibits to Open at Alaska State Museum On April First Friday

JUNEAU – The Alaska State Museum will be open extended hours on First Friday, April 5th, for the opening of two solo artist exhibits: “Playing with Lightning: Ravenstail Weavings by Kay Field Parker,” and “Rainforest Warriors: Tlingit Armor” by carver Tommy Joseph. The Friends of the Alaska State Museum will host an opening reception from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. followed by a 7 p.m. walk-through with Kay Parker of her Ravenstail weaving exhibit. There is no admission charge after 4:00 p.m. on First Fridays.

Ravenstail weaving is an ancient style of twining that creates dramatic geometric patterns in black and white with splashes of yellow highlights. This style of twining was done along the Northwest Coast until the late 1700s when Chilkat weaving began to flourish. Ravenstail weaving was non-existent for almost 200 years until its revival by Cheryl Samuel in the 1980s when she published her book, “The Raven’s Tail” and began teaching. Parker began taking Ravenstail weaving classes from Samuel, and in 1990, she participated in the *Hands Across Time Robe* Ravenstail weaving project that took place in the museum’s clan house. She has since become a prolific weaver of the Ravenstail technique.

Joseph’s interest in Tlingit armor was kindled first through photographs, and then through research he was conducting for the 200th anniversary of the 1804 Battle of Sitka. In his research, he visited 20 or more museums in the United States and abroad to study collections of Northwest Coast art, including many pieces of Tlingit armor, as well as Tlingit pipes. Joseph has been working on this exhibit for over 8½ years. He teaches carving at his studio in Sitka and for the University of Alaska.

Both exhibits will be up through the summer and will run through Oct. 12, 2012.

Winter 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 before the visit.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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