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Press Release

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE: April 27, 2012**

**DAN DEROUX'S "HISTORY OF ALASKA"  
ASM Honors Long-time Alaskan Artist with Comprehensive Show**

JUNEAU – A walrus in a dress and floral headband gazing mournfully out of her window; ballerinas *a la Degas* warming up at the shores of the Bering Sea; a Venetian café—complete with gondolier—located at the foot of a calving glacier; “Mona Lisa” re-imagined as an Alaskan. These are just some of the images to flow from the mind of Juneau painter Dan DeRoux during his 40 years as a professional artist.

Join the Alaska State Museum on Friday, May 11, as it celebrates the opening of his comprehensive solo exhibit “Dan DeRoux’s History of Alaska” with reception sponsored by Friends of the Alaska State Museum from 4:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

For five months this coming summer, the Museum honors Dan DeRoux with the largest show of his career. DeRoux uses humor to paint a slightly different picture of Alaskan history, one in which the Dutch colonize Dutch Harbor, George Washington crosses the Bering Strait, and the Aleuts discover Vitus Bering in Denmark.

The show will also include several sculpture pieces, including Seward’s actual icebox and an “authentic” petroglyph depicting the migratory route across the Bering Land Bridge—“the world’s first AAA map.”

Often playful, always beautifully executed and unfailingly original, DeRoux’s work doesn’t simply go for easy one-liners. Rather, he is looking at and commenting on Alaska’s history within the context of alternate narrative. Plus, he paints in the classic iconic style. In this way, he is both iconic and ironic—kind of like Salvador Dali, had Dali grown up in Juneau and lived in Alaska for 60 years.

Dan DeRoux has been a professional Alaskan artist since 1972. His work appears in the permanent collection of the Smithsonian and the Butler Institute; he has exhibited at the National Collection in Washington, DC, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and the Denver Art Museum. Of course, DeRoux’s paintings also appear all over Alaska: in museums as well as on the sides of buildings, parking garage walls, and schools.

“Dan DeRoux’s History of Alaska” runs through October 13, 2012.

Winter hours at the museum run through May 12 and are 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. Discounted winter admission is \$3. Summer hours begin May 13 and are 8:30 to 5:30 daily. Summer admission is \$7 with a \$1 discount for seniors. 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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[www.museums.state.ak.us](http://www.museums.state.ak.us)

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