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Press Release

SHELDON JACKSON MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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May Artifacts of the Month: Selection of human figurines

The May artifacts of the month are a selection of nine human figurines. The examples exhibited here illustrate the diversity of this artifact type. Human figurines are found throughout Alaska and are sculptured from ivory, stone, bone or wood. Such figurines could serve a variety of purposes - some functioned as personal amulets, children's dolls, fertility charms, household guardians, or shaman's tools.

The majority of figurines depict facial features such as eyes and mouth with varying degrees of abstraction. On some, gender is indicated. Occasionally body adornment traditions such as tattooing or body piercings are represented. The majority of the human figurines in the Sheldon Jackson Museum are nude, although some have removable garments.

Some figurines that were used for ceremonial purposes were ritually fed or only brought out for special occasions. Others that were personal amulets were sewn into clothing, or worn around the neck.

The human figurines will be on exhibit at the Sheldon Jackson Museum May 1st through 31st. Summer admission is \$5 with a discounted \$4 admission for seniors. No admission is charged for Friends of Sheldon Jackson Museum members and those under 18.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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