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Press Release

ALASKA STATE MUSEUMS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sheldon Jackson Museum Visiting Artist Program 2017



SITKA – A popular feature of the Sheldon Jackson Museum is the visiting summer artist residency, the Native Artist Residency Program. Artists from around the state fill residencies at the museum, during which time they study the collections and share their work with the public through artist lectures, hands-on workshops, and demonstrations. This summer the museum is hosting a series of five artist residents. Participating artists include Tsimshian carver and silver engraver Abel Ryan (June 11-July 1), Tlingit silver and wood carver and graphic artist Benjamin Schleifman, (July 1-22), Inupiaq mask carver Erin Katherine Gingrich (July 26-Aug. 14), Athabascan fish skin sewer Joel Isaak (Aug. 19-30), and Yupi'k & Inupiaq mask carver Drew Michael (Sept. 2-13). Both Abel Ryan and Benjamin Schleifman will be co-hosted by the museum with the Sitka Fine Arts Camp.

This year's residency program will include a free block printing class taught by Abel Ryan on Saturday, June 24th from 2-3pm; a talk on shamanic art by Benjamin Schleifman on Saturday, July 8th; a free paper mache Tlingit mask making class on Saturday, July 8th and 15th; an Artist Talk with Erin Katherine Gingrich on Saturday, July 29th; a free intensive multi-part fish skin sewing class taught by Joel Isaak on Aug. 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 29th, and 30th; an Artist Talk with Drew Michael on Saturday, Sept. 9th; and a Residency Recap Talk by all artists in residence. The classes are free but require advanced registration and in some cases, ordering of materials online in advance. Some classes have age restrictions. To sign up, obtain more details, and materials lists, call (907) 747-8981. To view events related to the Native Artist Residency Program, visit the Friends of Sheldon Jackson Museum Facebook page or the Alaska State Museum website at http://museums.alaska.gov/sheldon_jackson/sjnativedemos.html.

The Native Artist Residency Program is made possible through the support of the National Endowment for the Arts, Sitka Fine Arts Camp, Alaska Airlines, the Friends of the Sheldon Jackson Museum, and private donations.

Summer hours at the Sheldon Jackson Museum 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m, Tuesday through Saturday. Summer admission is \$7 for adults and \$6 for seniors. Visitors 18 and under are admitted free of charge. Assistance is available for visitors with special needs. Please contact the museum for more information at 907.747.8981.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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www.museums.alaska.gov