

Patience Frederiksen

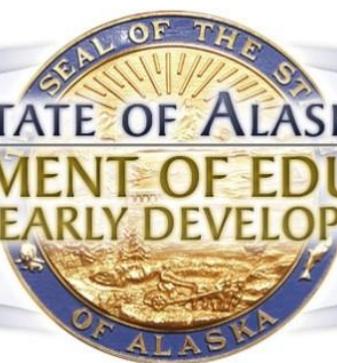
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STATE OF ALASKA

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT**



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Press Release

ALASKA STATE MUSEUMS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Friends of Sheldon Jackson Museum Annual Meeting, Silent Auction, and Opening of Alaska Positive Exhibition”

The opening reception for Alaska Positive, a juried photo exhibit, and the Friends of Sheldon Jackson Museum’s Annual Meeting will take place at the Sheldon Jackson Museum Saturday, February 11th. The public is welcome to arrive to the event at 1:30pm to get a first glimpse of the exhibit as well as the artwork available in the Friends’ Native Art Silent Auction. Guests are encouraged to attend the Friends’ Annual Meeting will start at 2:30pm, be followed by guest speaker John Hagan’s talk at 3:00pm, and enjoy post-lecture light fare and refreshments in the lobby with the artist. The event is free to attend and is the Friends’ most important fundraiser for the Native Artist Residency Program.

Inupiaq/ Unanagan photographer John Hagen, whose work is featured in the Alaska Positive Exhibition, will present on his project “Wild Things,” and his approach to documenting the larger than life landscape of Alaska.

“Wild Things” is a project where Hagen explores Brown bears as a popular and powerful symbol of Alaska, representing our outdoor spirit and Last Frontier identity. It is also a project about “our sense of place.” Hagen writes that, “Location is the heart of identity for most Alaskans. The inspiration for my work is a fascination with how people respond to the world around them. This series - half-seriously, half-humorously - explores how we use taxidermy brown bears to bring the wilderness to us.”

Now in its 46th year, *Alaska Positive* is a biennial series meant to encourage photography as an art form in the state. *Alaska Positive* was previously on exhibit at the Alaska State Museum from and after being exhibited at the Sheldon Jackson Museum, will continue on its statewide tour.

The juror for *Alaska Positive* was Larry McNeil, an internationally known photographer from Juneau, who is the Professor of Photography at Boise State University. He selected 35 photographs by 28 photographers for the exhibit. Overall, 67 Alaska photographers submitted 248 photographs for the competition.

The top award, the Juror's Choice, went to Chris Miller of Juneau for the photograph titled *Mendenhall Moulin*. Awards of Recognition went to Cody Swanson from Anchorage for *Midsagittal Lovers*, and Deborah Tharp of Anchorage for *The Time Keeper's Ledger*. These awards are sponsored by the Friends of the Alaska State Library, Archives, and Museum.

In addition, four other photographers were given Honorable Mentions. They are: Tim Remick, Anchorage; O'Hara Shipe, Anchorage; Dennis Walworth, Anchorage; and Dean Cully, Anchorage.

To watch a recording of juror Larry McNeil's lecture online, visit the Alaska Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums' YouTube page: <https://youtu.be/14RBERYSpAA>.

The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday 10am-12:00pm and 1:00pm-4:00pm. The museum is closed holidays. General admission is \$3 and free for 18 and under and members of the Friends of the Sheldon Jackson Museum or Friends of the Alaska State Museum. For details, call (907) 747-8981.

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