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Press Release

ALASKA STATE MUSEUMS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE DREW MICHAEL



The Sheldon Jackson Museum is pleased to welcome Drew Michael, an Inupiaq and Yup'ik mask carver. Michael will begin his residency on September 2nd. He will be creating art at the museum from 10am-12pm and 1:30-4:30pm most days of his residency. He will give an Artist Talk on Saturday, Sept. 9th at 2pm focusing on his process and the importance of history and place and how it inspires his work. The last day of his residency will be Sept. 14th.

Drew Michael was born in Bethel, Alaska. He and his twin brother grew up in Eagle River, Alaska. Drew started learning carving at age 13, learning from archeologist Bob Shaw, printmaker Joe Senungetuk, and contemporary Athabascan mask-maker, Kathleen Carlo. As he practiced his craft and developed his own style, he also studied the craftsmanship of works by master carvers and spent many hours comparing others works with his own designs and process, searching for his own niche. He applied research to his carvings, using trial & error to grow his work into what it is today.

Drew focuses on how masks were originally used by Yup'ik people, for healing and telling stories of things unseen. Drew's work incorporates healing practices of the Yup'ik people and religious icons of European Christianity. The artist hopes to encourage people to find healing in ways that bring about balance in much the same way he has used these practices to find balance in his own life.

The Sheldon Jackson Museum's Native Artist Residency Program is made possible with support from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Friends of Sheldon Jackson Museum. The museum is open during summer hours Tuesday through Saturday from 9am until 4:30pm until Sept. 19th, at which time winter hours will go into effect. The museum is closed for State holidays. General admission during the summer is \$7; \$6 for seniors, and free for those 18 and under, members of the Friends of Sheldon Jackson Museum or Friends of the Alaska State Museum. A museum pass that gives visitors unlimited access to the Sheldon Jackson Museum and the Alaska State Museum is available for \$35.00.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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