

Ivory Carver to open studio

Lloyd Elasanga, a noted Eskimo ivory carver from Little Diomed Island, will open a studio and gallery March 2 in the Landmark Building, adjacent to Club 25 in downtown Anchorage.

To celebrate the opening, which occurs at the start of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, Elasanga and his wife, Lovie, will hold a drawing for an ivory carving of a musher and his dog.

Elasanga is famous for his figurines of seals, polar bears, walrus and other animals. He also does scrimshaw and sculptures.

Until now, Elasanga has worked out of a studio in his Anchorage home. However, that has prevented him from publicly

demonstrating the processes involved in carving, and other arts.

"Too many people see an ivory carving in a shop, but they don't understand the time and effort that has gone into creating it," Elasanga said. "In the Landmark Building I can set up my workbench so visitors or passersby can watch a piece of ivory take shape. They can ask questions, and I can show them how I use traditional tools like the bow drill."

Elasanga is the first tenant to open a shop in the Club 25-Landmark complex at Fourth Avenue and D Street. Club 25, an historic Anchorage building, was moved to its present site in 1984.



Lloyd Elasanga