

Selections made for Native Arts festival

The jurors of the 11th Alaska Festival of Native Arts have completed their selection of pieces to be included in the exhibition which opens Sunday, May 2 from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Anchorage Historical and Fine Arts Museum.

The opening day festivities will be highlighted by a program of demonstrations by Native craftsmen and Eskimo dances from 2 to 4 p.m. in the afternoon. The public is invited to attend free of charge.

The jurors for this year's exhibition were Laurence Ahvakana and Dennis Demmert. Laurence Ahvakana is currently Sculptor in Residence at the Visual Arts Center of Alaska, Anchorage.

A native of Barrow, his training includes study at the Institute of American Indian Art, Sante Fe; the Cooper Union School of Art, New York City; and a B.F.A. degree in sculpture and glass from the Rhode Island School of Design.

As an artist, Ahvakana has exhibited widely throughout the state, including "Earth Fire and Fibre," The All Alaska Juried Art Exhibition and the Festival of Native Arts. Prior to his association with the Visual Arts Center, he worked as National Endowment for the Arts Artist in Residence in Barrow, Alaska and was an instructor with the North Slope Borough School District and at Inupiaq University in Barrow.

Dennis Demmert is presently serving as director of Native Studies at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. A native of Southeastern Alaska, Demmert served as director of the Alaska State Museum Totem Retrieval Project in 1971 and also organized classes in Northwest Coast traditional art.

He received his graduate education at Boston University and Harvard University and served as a resource person for "The Far North" exhibition during its stay at The Boston Museum of Fine Arts.

The jurors selected a total

of 88 pieces including work in the categories of basketry, beadwork, dolls, graphics, metalwork, ivory and bone, wood and stone, skinsewing and miscellaneous. Cash prizes of \$100 were designated for the best work in each category with top prizes of \$250 assigned for the Juror's Choice Award.

Standard Oil of California, Western Operations donated the funding for the prizes available within the exhibition. Melvin Olanna of Shishmaref was selected to receive the Juror's Choice Award for his Sterling Silver Eskimo Mask Pendant. This same piece took the prize in the metalwork category.

Prizewinners include Maria Bell, Hooper Bay for her Eskimo grass basket; Marie Ackerman, Anchorage for a pair of Coho Salmon appliques in the category of beadwork; Dolly Spencer of Homer for her Eskimo Hunter Doll and Eskimo Woman Doll; John Kalukiak, Tununak for his untitled print in the graphics category; Jim Schoppert, Nome, for his engraved ivory Killer Whale Tooth; Fred Anderson of Anchorage

for his sculpture "Native Craft" and Laura Jager, Anchorage in the category of skinsewing for a pair of mukluks.

The Alaska State Council on the Arts Purchase Award for the Art bank which circulates art to state buildings was given to Fred Anderson, of Anchorage for his sculpture "Native Craft."

Prizes will be presented at opening reception by representatives of Standard Oil of California. Many of the pieces will be available for purchase in addition to general exhibition. The exhibit will be on display from Sunday May 4 through Sunday, May 23. The museum is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday from 9 to 5 and on Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m.