



Sylvester Ayek carving a mask for the 'Alaskameut '86' exhibit which tours Alaska through 1987. The exhibit features 40 works by artists representing six Alaska Native cultures.

photo by Jean Flanagan Carlo

IANA tours Alaskameut '86 exhibit statewide

"Alaskameut '86," an exhibition of masks by 15 renowned artists representing six Alaska Native cultures will soon be traveling throughout the state.

The exhibit, which premiered in Fairbanks' Civic Center Gallery at Alaskaland and remains there until Saturday, is co-sponsored by the Institute of Alaska Native Arts and the Fairbanks Arts Association.

The Institute of Alaska Native Arts is a statewide nonprofit organization which provides programs and services to Aleut, Eskimo and Indian artists. The institute also sponsored the maskmaking symposium which produced the artwork now on exhibit.

IANA invited the 15 carvers and maskmakers to share their ideas and techniques of their craft.

Those invited were: Lawrence Ullaaq Ahvakana, Fred Anderson, Sylvester Ayek, Lawrence Beck, Kathleen Carlo, James Grant, Jack

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Alaskameut '86

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Hudson, Nathan Jackson, Edna Davis Jackson, John Kailukiak, Harvey Pootoogooluk, Charley Post, Jim Schoppert, Joseph Senungetuk and

Richard Seeganna.

Together, the artists produced about 40 masks and panels made of wood, ivory and whalebone; the same works comprise the exhibit.

A tentative tour schedule for "Alaskameut '86" is as follows:

- Sept. 15-29, North Slope Borough Schools, Barrow;
- Oct. 5-Nov. 2, Anchorage Museum of History and Art;
- November, Valdez;
- Dec. 10-Jan. 3, 1987, Sheldon Jackson Museum, Sitka;
- Jan. 8-Feb. 8, 1987, Alaska State Museum, Juneau;
- Feb. 15-March 15, 1987,

Yugtarkvik Museum, Bethel;

- March 22-April 19, 1987, Sam Fox Museum, Dillingham;
- May 1987, Nome;
- June 1987, Kotzebue;
- July 1987, Pratt Museum, Homer.

A catalogue featuring the artists and their work is available through exhibition sites and by mail from IANA. A poster featuring masks from the exhibit will be available in October during the AFN convention.

The maskmaking symposium was partially funded by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts. The institute received an appropriation from the Alaska State Legislature for the exhibit.