

# Artwork sale to benefit CIRI students

Koyukon Athabascan artist Phyllis Fast recently left Alaska for pre-doctoral studies in anthropology at Harvard University.

Rather than store the 100 plus watercolor paintings she has spent years creating, she has chosen to liquidate her personal collection of artwork to establish a scholarship and further enhance Native students' education statewide.

The paintings will be available through the Window Gallery of Fine Art in October. Gallery owner Dawn Hillyer developed a friendship with Fast through her husband, artist Steve Hillyer and the Alaska Watercolor Society.



*The watercolors go on display Oct. 22.*

"Phyllis deserves recognition for her personal accomplishments. She is a true role model for Native students," Hillyer said.

Fast most recently managed Aardvark Work Processing Services in Anchorage, while earning a master's degree in anthropology. She was program announcer for the Anchorage Museum of History and Art's Alaska Native Performance Series during the summer in addition to serving on the Board of Directors for Cook Inlet Tribal Council.

"Doing artwork has always been my own means of keeping my balance. If I get angry, confused, depressed or nervous, a few hours of drawing or painting seems to work it out," Fast

said. "During the past three years of intense study, I also discovered that drawing stimulates my mind somehow to solve problems more easily and possibly more creatively."

Although she is an Alaska Native, Fast's paintings are not culturally oriented. She paints lightheartedly of varying subjects using bright colors and entertaining subjects.

Hillyer plans to offer the majority of the paintings in the \$50 to \$250 price range.

"During the past three years, I have received extremely generous financial and academic support from various sources. Donating artwork for a benefit sale is the best way I can think of to give something back in return for what has been given to me," Fast said. "Through the funds raised in this sale, I hope to encourage other Native students to emphasize their artistic abilities."

Fast's watercolors will be on display at the Window Gallery of Fine Art, 412 G St., Oct. 22-Nov. 3, coinciding with the Alaska Federation of

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***—Phyllis Fast***



*Phyllis Fast left Alaska recently.*

Natives Convention in Anchorage.

The proceeds from the artwork will be used for a student scholarship to be offered by the CIRI Foundation and for savings bonds to be awarded as

grand prizes to an elementary and secondary education student participating in the Johnson O'Malley annual Native Youth Art Contest at Cook Inlet Tribal Council.