



photo courtesy Anchorage Museum of History and Art

Three King Island dancer figures are among items featured at exhibition, including one of sterling silver, fossil walrus, ivory, chrysoprase and chrysocholla; a dancer of sterling silver, fossil ivory, lapis lazuli and spectrolite; and a dancer of sterling silver, fossil walrus ivory, lace agate and moonstone. The figures' sizes vary between about 2 and 3 inches high and about 1 and 2 inches wide.

Exhibition features jewelry by Aleut artist

A solo exhibition of jewelry by Aleut artist Denise Wallace will open with a public reception to meet the artist from 1-3 p.m. Sunday at the Anchorage Museum of History and Art.

The exhibit features an elaborate link belt, entitled "King Island Dancers," and an assortment of pins, rings, pendants and bracelets.

Wallace combines fossilized ivory and richly colored stones with silver to create magnificent pieces of

wearable sculpture. Calling upon her Alaska Native heritage, she fashions contemporary images such as walrus, whales and seals into intricate designs, sometimes in mask-like configurations.

Her belts are a series of links, each one independent pieces of jewelry, which can be detached and worn separately.

A mask shape may be opened to reveal another image which can be

separated and worn as a pendant. The design for the "King Island Dancers" belt was inspired by a dance performance by the King Island Dancers of Anchorage last February in Santa Fe, N.M., where Wallace's studio is located.

Wallace, who was raised in Seattle and trained at the Institute of American Indian Arts, spent her childhood summers in Cordova and the Prince William Sound region with her Aleut

relatives.

She passed many hours listening to her maternal grandmother's stories and now considers herself to be a storyteller through her jewelry.

"I see my work as a way of carrying on my culture," she said. "It's my way of saying, 'This is who I am. This is where I'm from.'"

This exhibit will be on view through Dec. 31.