

Heritage festival features art

Traditional and contemporary Native art, music, dance and theatre will be the featured attraction of the 6th annual Alaska Native Heritage Festival at the Anchorage Museum of History and Art.

During this four-day event, which takes place on March 9-11, from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. and March 12 from 1-5 p.m., museum visitors will have the opportunity to observe the work of Native craftspeople from Anchorage and around the state who represent all of Alaska's Native culture groups.

In addition, there will be continuous entertainment in the museum auditorium which includes Audrey Armstrong as mistress of ceremonies, the Naa Kahidi Theatre Company of Juneau production of "Keet Shagoon! The Origin of the Killer Whale" and members of the Greatland Dancers and Singers demonstrating Eskimo songs and dance.

Aleut artisans invited to participate in the festival include contemporary artist Denise Wallace of Santa Fe, N.M., who creates jewelry using traditional themes; Gertrude Svarny of Unalaska who will exhibit her contemporary Aleut carvings and demonstrate traditional Aleut basketmaking; Martha Matfay from Old Harbor who will also demonstrate traditional basket-

making; and Larry Matfay of Old Harbor will show his Aleut toys and models.

Native artists representing Southeast Alaska will be Delores Churchill, a Haida weaver from Ketchikan; Nathan Jackson, a traditional Tlingit carver, also from Ketchikan; Mable Pike, a Tlingit beader, originally from Douglas, now residing in Anchorage; and Richard Beasley, a contemporary Tlingit artist from Hoonah.

Eskimo artisans include Lincoln Milligrock, an Inupiat ivory carver from Nome; Mary Jane Litchard, an Inupiat baleen basketmaker, originally from Point Hope, now living in Mobridge, S.D.; Eva Heffle, an Inupiat Eskimo dollmaker from Fairbanks; and Rita Blumenstein, a Yup'ik maskmaker, originally from Nelson Island, now residing in Anchorage.

Athapaskan artisans are Hannah Solomon, a traditional beader, originally from Fort Yukon, now in Fairbanks; Daisy Demientieff, a birch-bark basketmaker, whose family is from Garyling, but now lives in Anchorage; and Ron Manook, a contemporary Athapaskan artist from Fairbanks.

The Naa Kahidi Theatre Company presentation of "The Legend of the Killer Whale" will take place at 11 a.m., 1 and 3 p.m. on March 9, 10

and 11 at 1:15-3:15 on March 12.

The Greatland Dancers and Singers will perform at noon, 2 and 4 p.m. on March 9, 10 and 11 and on March 12 at 2:15 and 4:15 p.m.

The Alaska Native Heritage Festival has been organized by the Education Department of the Anchorage Museum of History and Art with grants from Alaska State Council on the Arts, Cook Inlet Region Inc., Anchorage Museum Association, Polaris Travel, Westmark Hotels and Alaska Airlines.



Audrey Armstrong

Anchorage Museum of History and Art photos



Chris Makua performs "The Origin of the Killer Whale."