

Native hunting tools on display

An exhibit of Alaska Native hunting tool technology will open in the atrium balcony of the Anchorage Museum of History and Art April 15 and remain on view through May 31.

The exhibit, which includes Eskimo spears, Athapaskan snares and arrows, Tlingit halibut hooks, as well as ivory, bone and obsidian projectile points from the museum's permanent collection, among others, demonstrates Alaska Natives' efficient use of the natural materials available to them in order to master the environment.

Effective tools for the hunting of animals and birds and for sea and river fishing were not only utilitarian, but displayed an elegance of design.

Many of the objects, such as boats and lances, carried the mark of the hunter and the village so an orderly distinction could be made among the hunting communities.

Fetishes were also included in the design and were evoked after the capture of the prey in ceremonies of respect and honor to the animal's spirit, in recognition of the partnership between the Native people and the animals.

The exhibit has been organized by museum volunteers Marilyn Williams and Sharon Keller.

Admittance to this exhibit and all exhibitions and programs during public hours at the museum is \$2 for adults 18 years and older. There is no charge to visit the Museum Shop or Museum Cafe.