

Native artists to give workshop

by Beverly Patkotak Grinage
Tundra Times

The Visual Arts Center in Anchorage is sponsoring a Native arts workshop. The workshop will be a hands-on workshop for Native artists interested in growing to their maximum potential.

Well-known Alaska Native artists will give workshops in mask-making, contemporary stone carving, woodcuts, baleen basketry, laminating and inlaying wood, and several other areas.

Joe Senungetuk is the coordinator for the workshop with the assistance of Susie Bevins "Qimmiqsak" and Larry Ahvakana. The workshop will be held from April 15 to the 26th in Anchorage. Some of the artists giving workshops are Jim Schoppert, Melvin Olana, and Mary Jane Litchard.

The planners have scheduled appointments with university art departments and the museum. They will get their names on the museum mailing list. This mailing list would keep them informed on juried art shows that they could enter. They have invited Larry McNeil, photographer, to give a workshop on how to photograph their artwork so they

can develop their portfolios. They will also get ideas on how to put a resume together.

Bevins, an Inupiat artist, said she hopes the workshop will bring artists to their full potential so that they can become more productive, recognized and get good money for their art. "I really believe you can make a good living as an artist," said Bevins. "We have lots of plans and dreams so that we grow each year."

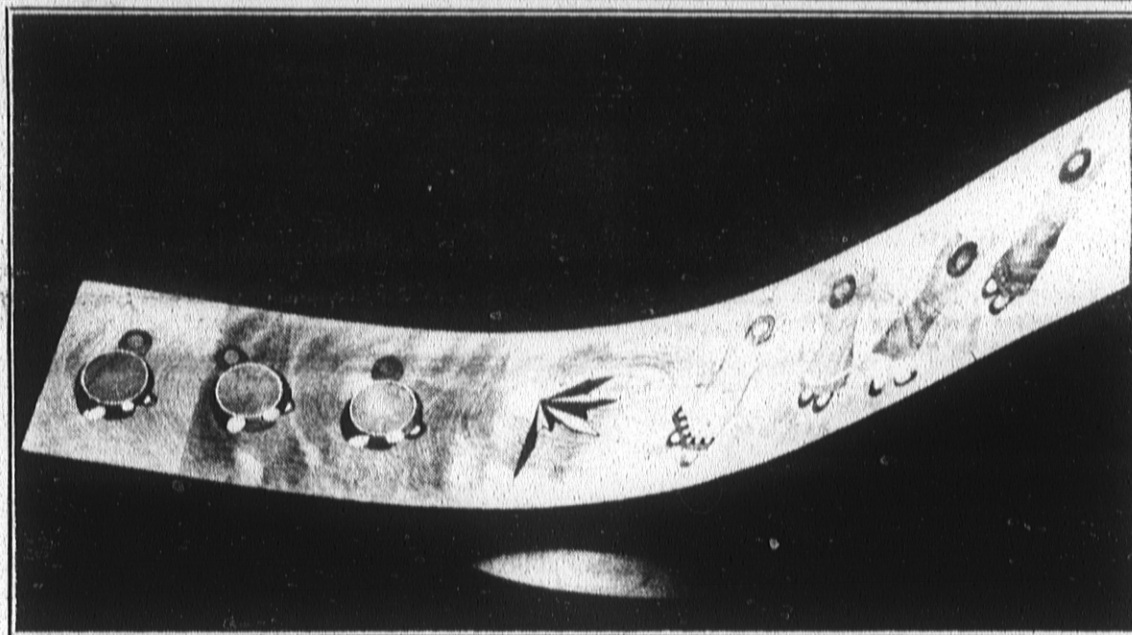
Although this is the first year for the workshop, Bevins and Senungetuk hope to make this an annual event. "Every year we will have new leaders so that each year we have fresh input...we have a desire at sometime to take all twenty participants outside to one of the workshops," added Bevins.

Bevins also hopes to bring in elder carvers so that they can share their foundation and values and to invite contemporary and traditional artists to exchange ideas.

Senungetuk, who has been involved in Native art for about twenty years, said that he hopes to eventually see Anchorage open a place similar to the Institute of

Alaska Native Arts in Fairbanks. He has traveled extensively throughout Alaska working with Native art programs and has been living off of his artwork for about eight years. Although he has upheld the image of being a successful Native artist, he said that he has experienced financial hardships in his attempt to live off of his artwork. "I don't think I'll ever give up...we're trying to sensitize the academic institutions and media and to seek continuing support," he said.

Artists who are interested in attending the workshop should contact the Visual Arts Center in Anchorage or the Institute of Alaska Native Arts in Fairbanks before April 1. The tuition is \$100. The IANA is giving tuition scholarships, transportation in Anchorage will be provided by the VAC, lodging will be arranged, and MarkAir has donated some airline tickets for persons wishing to attend the workshop. Additional funding has been received from the Kreielsheimer Foundation, Alaska State Council on the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts.



Art by Susie Bevins "Qimmiqsak;" purchased by the museum in Anchorage for their permanent collection.



Art by Joe Senungetuk: representing the theme of the workshop: Spiritualism and Commercialism.