

# Lisbourne Studies Art at SJC

Eskimo artist Ken Lisbourne of Point Hope, Alaska is not interested in becoming a "modern" artist. Instead, his simple watercolor scenes concentrate on Eskimo life the way it was.

"I try to do my art without including any modern equipment, like snow machines," he said. "I am trying to keep the older ways alive." Intent on accurately portraying the "old ways" in his art, Lisbourne often researches his subject before beginning to paint.

Soft-spoken and calm, Lisbourne has three goals: 1) to teach art, 2) to sell his work and 3) to start a crafts shop. Now a student at Sheldon Jackson College, Lisbourne hopes to continue his education next fall at the California College of Arts and Crafts.

He has already sold many of his prints and watercolors, and some of his ink sketches have become Christmas cards. In addition, Fairbanks artist Claire Fejes has sent some of his watercolors to a New York collector for consideration.

Lisbourne began his career as a crayon artist at age eleven. "I used to do art work for a missionary. The church was next door to where I lived and often at night my friends and I would go there and draw for her. I was very affected by what was around me. My father did a lot of seal and polar bear hunting and so I did many hunting scenes."

Grade school teachers in Point Hope encouraged Lisbourne to draw and helped him sell his first piece of art—an ivory carving knife.

As a high school student, Lisbourne transferred from Mt. Edgumbe High School in Sitka to the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, N.M.

There he was encouraged to experiment with different art forms, including sculpture, oils, acrylics and jewelry. While in New Mexico he did a seal sculpture in wonderstone that won first place in the Scotsdale (Arizona) Native Indian Art Exhibit.

Before coming to SJC, Lis-

bourne studied at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks, doing soapstone and ivory carvings and jewelry.

"I like sculpture, but now I'm getting to like watercolors," he said. "They are hard to control but watercolors have a nice effect."

He has also done several bal-teen etchings. One is displayed in the Sheldon Jackson College Museum and another was entered in the Sitka Arts and Crafts Exhibition.

A busy student, Lisbourne often does his painting at night, staying up until two or three in the morning doing his work.

"I have sometimes tried to stop my art work for a while to do other things, but I come in and see the paints and paper waiting and. . ." he shrugged and smiled, looking at his watercolors.

Lisbourne's watercolors have a calm, fine texture often made

joyful by the presence of what has become almost a symbol for the artist—a young child jumping rope.

"I use the child with the jump rope to signify that children just love to play outside," he said. Perhaps the happy child also reflects the joy of an artist who has found his work.