

APU displays portraits of Native leaders

by Steve Kakaruk

Tundra Times

Artist Helen Andersson is presently attending the Alaska Pacific University. Some may have seen her art work or read about the art work she has done from our August 29, 1984 issue. She was then working to complete the third of a series of 12 portraits of Native leaders. To date Andersson has completed three of a "bakers dozen" and is looking to the future to begin her work as a sculptor and painter.

A showcase display at APU's Grant Hall is available for a closer look of her ink drawing technique, pointillism. The three completed works are portrayals of Willie Hensley, *Tundra Times* founder Howard Rock and World Champion Sled Dog Racer,



Willie Hensley photo by Steve Kakaruk

George Attla.

Andersson's love for art began years ago; as a little girl she drew some ducks. Andersson said, "my father contributed to my art abilities; I drew these baby ducks following a mother duck crossing a road and since then I've been pushed forward to continue in arts." Today Andersson gets her encouragement from Paula



Artist Helen Andersson is taking up oils and sculpting, pursuing challenging new art media.

photo by Steve Kakaruk

Dickey, APU Oil Painting Instructor and Joe Senungutuk, APU Sculpting Instructor. Andersson's decision to choose to work in other art media is itself a serious challenge to any artist.

Andersson would like to do other portraits of Native leaders who have given much of their lives for their people's advancement. She insists that recognition often is given to the leaders of today that have carried on the work of yesterday's leaders for the Alaska Native people.

Andersson said, "there are a lot of



Howard Rock photo by Steve Kakaruk

next portraits in oils rather than ink.

Andersson may also abandon the pointillist style she adopted for the first three portraits. "There's so many dots that I've lost count and it takes so much time," Andersson said, adding, "I had no idea if the portraits would turn out; I would concentrate on placing the dots in place and didn't know if they were off or going to be good. Otherwise I really didn't look at where to place them on the whole uncompleted portrait, I worked just on the dots." Some are large dots, others are small; however, the portraits look very good and the dots are not really evident when viewing the work.

Whether or not Andersson decides to continue portraits of Native leaders, her work is a treasure to see. She has been under instruction for about one and one-half months or so.