

# All Native display brings artists from around state

by Henry Kaiser  
for the Tundra Times

Part of the 50th Annual Anchorage Fur Rendezvous was an All Native Arts & Crafts Display at the Dimond Center, held on Feb. 8th, 9th and 10th.

Ann Brown Ehlers, a Tlingit from Juneau, brought a Chilkat Blanket she is working on. It will take about one year for Ehlers to complete her Chilkat Blanket. The blanket is woven from wool and blend of wool and cedar bark. She is from the Raven Clan, and the finished design will be a raven. She had an eight inch square doll's blanket displayed that took six months to complete.

Tom Mayac, an artist from the Bering Sea area, formerly of King Island, was also at the Native arts and crafts display. Mayac's work for sale included ivory tusk, cribbage boards, caribou figures, and polar bears. Mayac has been carving for more than 20 years.

Sharon Kay, an Aleut, was weaving Aleut baskets. These are very finely-woven, with lids, and tiny animals or Native designs. The finished basket is only about 2 or 3 inches in diameter. These very small works of art require about 300 hours to make and sell from \$200 to \$400. Sharon teaches Aleut basket weaving at the Cook Inlet Native Association.

Helen Slwooko Carius, originally from Siberia, now an Anchorage resident, makes Siberian Yupik dolls. The doll faces are made of bleached sealskin with embroidered features. Their clothing is a combination of leather, various furs, and sheepskin sewn together.

Sylvester Ayek, an Anchorage resident for several years, has displayed and sold his work at many of the local gift stores, and by direct commission from interested buyers of Native arts, he works mostly in ivory, hardwoods, and some soapstone. Sylvester's work can be seen in many museums from the Smithsonian to many of Alaska's Museums.



Ann Brown Ehlers, of Juneau, displays her skills at the Alaska Native Arts and Crafts Show.

Photo by Henry Kaiser



Kotzebue, Anchorage Inupiaq Dialect singers at the Native Museum.

Photo by B...



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Photo by Beverly Patkotak Grlnage