

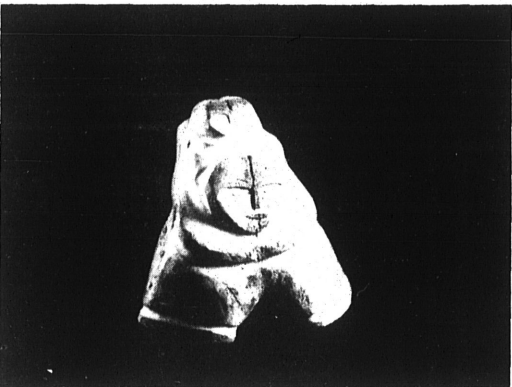
Resident Artist at Village of Shishmaref-

Gabriel Gely's Influence Reflected Among Eskimo Artists

By LYNN CHAMBERS



HARVEY POOTOOGOOK, whale bone, approx. 8"



BERT KUZUGUK, whale bone, approx. 6"



JOHN SINNOK, soapstone, approx. 12"

In July of 1971, Gabriel Gely, a French artist specializing in oil painting, came to Alaska to live in a village to do his own oil painting and to stimulate creative art work among the residents of that village.

Mr. Gely traveled to many villages to familiarize himself with the local situation in each village and to select a place of residence, where he felt the current craft activity could be upgraded to the fine arts category.

He found many villages that he wanted to work with, but in the end chose Shishmaref because Community Enterprise Development Corporation (CEDC) was already working with an arts and crafts co-op there and CEDC sponsored Mr. Gely.

Some of the items pictured here are examples of the work produced after Mr. Gely had been in Shishmaref for several months. Unless otherwise noted, the photos were made by Clark Mishler.

Mr. Gely has taken a year off to spend with his family in Canada. Mr. Teddy Pullock formerly of King Island, who spent several years studying under Ron Senungutuk at the U. of A., replaced Mr. Gely in Shishmaref. The work of the people in Shishmaref continues for the most part, to be innovative and creative. Credit should also be given to Melvin Olanna who conducted several workshops in Shishmaref under the U. of A., Division of State-wide services.

The items now being created in Shishmaref under the guidance of first Mr. Gely, Mr. Olanna and now Mr. Pullock are currently being promoted and marketed exclusively by Kennedy Galleries of New York City, one of the countries foremost specialist in American art.

This approach of upgrading current crafts into fine arts is already giving a higher dollar return to the artist and will continue to do so for many years to come.

Currently, cooperative efforts are being made by CEDC and the Alaska State Department of Economic Development to locate additional funds to hire more trained artists to live in other villages.

One problem being encountered is convincing funding sources that there are other villages that would like to have an artist live in the village to help stimulate fine art work. These "artists-in-residence" can be utilized to assist village people in working with any material - whale bone, ivory, glass, oil, metal, grass, clay, skins, and jade, to mention a few.

The people who would like to have an artist live and work with them in their village should write a letter requesting such an artist, to either Mr. Frank See, Chairman, Board of Directors, Community Enterprise Development Corporation, 503 W. Northern Lights Boulevard, Anchorage Alaska 99503; or to me Lynn Chambers Coordinator of Arts and Crafts Development, 338 Denali Street, Anchorage, Alaska.

Please understand that funds have not yet been located. However, the more letters received the more money we should be able to get. The National Endowment for the Arts, The Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and The State Department of Education are among those sources to be approached for funds based upon the letters of request received.

The Regional Corps at this time do not have grant funds available for this type of project. Hopefully within the next few years, they will.

Exxon Offers Cash Prizes For Artists

A state-wide contest for resident Alaskan artists, the first to offer major cash prizes, has been announced by Exxon Company, U.S.A.

Purchase awards of \$8,500 are being offered Alaskan artists for their winning entries in a competition that will result in the creation of the Salon of Alaskan Artists, a traveling display of locally produced quality art that will tour major museums and galleries in the Lower 48 for two years.

The contest is being conducted in cooperation with the Alaska State Museum. Winners will be determined by a panel of judges, one from Alaska and two from the Lower 48.

First, second and third place winners will be selected in five categories: 1. Block Printing; 2. Other Graphic Arts, paintings - oils, water-colors, etc.; collage, etching, engraving, etc.; 3. Sculpture; 4. Weaving and Basketry; and 5. Crafts - ceramics, metals, woodworking, jewelry, etc.

First place winners in each category will receive purchase awards of \$1,000; second place, \$500; third place winners will receive \$200.

"We have attempted to develop a program that would have a special attraction for Alaskan artists who have not achieved wide-spread recognition outside the state," said a company spokesman. "We have placed a premium on high quality because we feel the exceptional creative efforts of Alaskan artists are equal to the quality of art produced anywhere."

Entries in the contest will be received by the State Museum in Juneau beginning July 1. Winners will be announced September 14, 1973.

A brochure, featuring the winning artists and their work, will accompany the display on the tour in the Lower 48. They will be distributed free of charge.

A prospectus with full details of the program is available from Exxon Company, U.S.A., P.O. Box 440, Anchorage, Alaska 99510.

Auroral Studies

FAIRBANKS Three new National Science Foundation research grants have been received by the University of Alaska, two of which will finance additional auroral studies by the Geophysical Institute.

A grant of \$176,400 will support for two more years a project entitled "Color Imaging of Auroras." It brings the total of NSF support for the project to \$334,400.

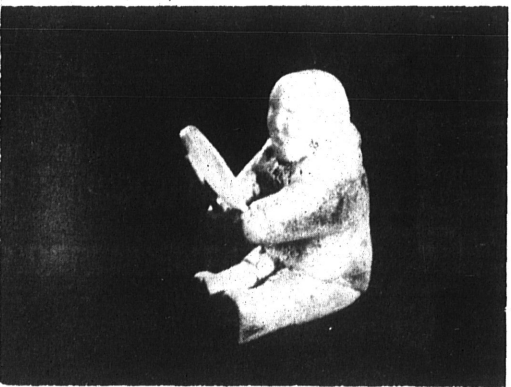
This project under the direction of Dr. E. Neil Davis, deputy director of the institute, and Thomas J. Hallinan will involve the use of color television systems and movie cameras to study the color and motion of auroras in an attempt to understand the nature of incoming particles from above the atmosphere which create auroras.

An NSF grant of \$30,000 will support for 12 months a project entitled "Theoretical Studies of Auroral-Zone Incoherent Scatter," which will be directed by Daniel W. Swift.

An NSF grant of \$56,000 will support for two more years a continuing study of coat color in Arctic and Subarctic mammals, under the direction of Dr. R. D. Guthrie of the Department of Biological Sciences. This latest grant brings NSF support of the project to \$111,000.



FLORA WEYIOUANNA, skin on felt, approx. 30" x 15"
Photo by GABRIEL GELY



JOHN SINNOK, whale bone and ivory, approx. 2 1/2"