



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Jan. 13, 2012

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Preston Singletary: Echoes, Fire and Shadows

On view Feb. 3 through April 22 at the Anchorage Museum

For more than 20 years, Preston Singletary has melded the legends of his Tlingit heritage with the beauty of glass to create a distinctive, powerful body of work.

"Preston Singletary: Echoes, Fire and Shadows," on view Feb. 3 through April 22 at the Anchorage Museum, is a mid-career survey chronicling Singletary's evolution from night watchman at a glass studio to internationally recognized glass artist. The exhibition was curated by the Museum of Glass in Tacoma, Wash., and traveled last year to the National Museum of the American Indian's gallery in New York City.

Singletary, who lives in Seattle, was raised with stories about his Tlingit heritage from his great-grandmother, Susie Johnson Bartlett, and other relatives from southeast Alaska. Inspired by this legacy, he dedicated his work to both honoring Tlingit tradition and infusing it with new vitality.

He sees the Alaska exhibition as a homecoming. "I am honored to have all this national attention for my work, but my connections to the Native community and the Indigenous world community is where I get my inspiration," he said. "I have a tremendous sense of purpose with my work because it represents my family, history, community and the confluence of cultures as I experience it."

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His unique interpretations of Tlingit legends are visible in his stunning glass sculptures, many of which are in traditional forms such as crest hats, masks and rattles. He employs a complex combination of techniques, including glassblowing, sand carving and inlaying.

In this exhibition, visitors will see nearly 50 works of art, including some rare objects being exhibited for the first time and Singletary's most ambitious work to date: "Clan House" is a 16-by-10-foot glass triptych recalling the interior of a Tlingit longhouse. The exhibition is enriched with original music and a documentary film.

Some objects on display are from the artist's own collection; others were borrowed from museum and private collections across the United States. Singletary's art is included in collections at the Seattle Art Museum; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Anchorage Museum; and the Heard Museum, Phoenix, among others.

SPONSORS

This exhibition was organized by the Museum of Glass, Tacoma, Wash., presented by Alaska Airlines and sponsored by the Leonard and Norma Klorfine Foundation, Windgate Charitable Foundation and JoAnn McGrath. Support for the exhibition at the Anchorage Museum comes from Alaska Airlines, ConocoPhillips Alaska and the Gottstein Family Foundation.

ANCHORAGE MUSEUM

The Anchorage Museum is the largest museum in Alaska and one of the top 10 most visited attractions in the state. The museum's mission is to share and connect Alaska with the world through art, history and science. Learn more at www.anchoragemuseum.org.

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MEDIA ADVISORY

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Contact: Sarah Henning, (907) 929-9231 (w), (907) 250-3352 (c) shenning@anchagemuseum.org

Two-for-one: Exclusive press preview of two new February exhibitions

What: Private press preview of "Preston Singletary: Echoes, Fire and Shadows" and Tim Remick's "After: Portraits from Denali," both opening Feb. 3 at the Anchorage Museum

When: 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 2

Where: Anchorage Museum, 625 C St.

PRESS PREVIEW DETAILS

Open house format: Check in anytime between 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. in the museum lobby so you can gain security clearance for the third floor. There will not be a formal tour, but artists and museum representatives will be available to answer questions.

AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS

- Preston Singletary, Seattle artist
- Tim Remick, Anchorage artist
- Julie Decker, chief curator, Anchorage Museum

Please note: This is the only opportunity to speak face-to-face with Preston Singletary.

PHOTOGRAPHY GUIDELINES

Flash and artificial lights are allowed. Be prepared for dim and/or dramatic lighting in some areas.

Please RSVP for this open house at shenning@anchagemuseum.org.

(MORE)



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EXHIBITIONS

"Preston Singletary: Echoes, Fire and Shadows" is a mid-career survey by one of the nation's best-known Tlingit artists. For nearly two decades, Singletary has melded the symbols and legends of his Tlingit heritage with the dynamism of glass to create a distinctive, powerful body of work.

For his solo exhibition, "After: Portraits From Denali," Tim Remick photographed emotionally and physically ravaged mountain climbers. The Anchorage artist captured them mere moments after they stumbled into Mt. McKinley's base camp, still raw from the grueling experience. The large-format portraits are nearly 5 feet tall, heightening the drama of every hard-won blister and wrinkle, haunted eye and guarded grimace.

END



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PRESTON SINGLETARY EVENTS

“Preston Singletary: Echoes, Fire and Shadows” is on view Feb. 3 through April 22 at the Anchorage Museum. There are many opportunities for the public to meet Singletary and learn more about his life and work. Exhibit-related events and programs include:

Smithsonian Spotlight: Preston Singletary

Noon Thursday, Feb. 2

Join renowned glass artist Preston Singletary for a brown-bag lunch where he'll discuss how his Tlingit heritage has influenced his work. Enjoy this rare opportunity to see Tlingit artifacts taken out of the Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center cases. Included with admission

Artist Talk: Preston Singletary

7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 3

Preston Singletary has spent the past two decades translating the visual vocabulary of Tlingit woodcarving and painted art into glass. Learn about his inspirations, methods and artwork, particularly the pieces in his new exhibit. Free

Artist on the Floor: Preston Singletary

1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 4

Ever see an exhibit and wish you could talk to the artist about it? Here's your chance. Preston Singletary waits in the “Echoes, Fire and Shadows” exhibit to answer your questions. Included with admission

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Saturday With Singletary

2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 4

A family friendly opportunity to learn about Preston Singletary's glass sculptures. Use the interactive family guide to tour the "Echoes, Fire and Shadows" exhibit, then enjoy related hands-on activities for children. Included with admission

The Exchange: Transcending Thoughts

3:30 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 4

Join Tlingit storyteller Walter Porter and Tlingit artist Preston Singletary for a conversation about their unique creative perspectives. Learn how they found strength and inspiration in family, society and cultural roots. A book signing follows. Included with admission

Mosaic Workshop

10 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb 11 and 12 to 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb 12

Design and create your own mosaic in this two-day workshop. Gain an introduction to mosaic-making materials, techniques and tools. Taught by artist Michelle Turk. \$110

Movement In The Museum

6 to 9 p.m. Friday, April 6

Finding inspiration in "Preston Singletary: Echoes, Fire and Shadows" and other exhibits, Alaska Dance Theatre dancers perform in the museum's galleries. Free

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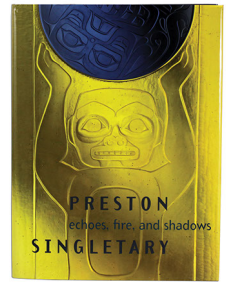
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PRESTON SINGLETARY BIO

A Seattle resident, Preston Singletary was introduced to glassmaking at age 15 by his friend Dante Marioni, son of Studio Glass pioneer Paul Marioni. After graduating high school in 1982, Singletary worked as night watchman at Seattle's Glass Eye Studio. Within months he was promoted to glassblower and began learning fundamental glassmaking techniques by creating paperweights and ornaments.

From 1985 to 2000, Singletary honed his skills on Benjamin Moore's glassblowing team. He learned traditional Venetian techniques by working alongside some of the glass world's most prominent artists including Italian masters Pino Signoretto and Lino Tagliapietra.

In 1993, Singletary assisted Tagliapietra during a Northern European tour. In Sweden Singletary met his future wife, Asa Sandlund, who introduced him to modern Scandinavian design. These experiences inspired Singletary to master traditional European glassblowing techniques.

Around this time, Singletary discovered his passion for Tlingit art. As a child he had heard Tlingit stories from his great-grandmother, Susie Johnson Bartlett, and other relatives from Southeast Alaska. Singletary's Tlingit name is Kuchéin of the Kaagwaan Taan Eagle/Wolf family from Sitka, Alaska.

Singletary began experimenting with ways to meld European glass with Tlingit design. For him, the glass' luminous quality evokes Tlingit spirits and ancestors. Over the next decade, he developed his definitive style, becoming one of the best-known glass artists in the nation.

Singletary's art is included in prestigious museum collections such as the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Corning (N.Y.) Museum of Glass; and Heard Museum, Phoenix. He teaches and lectures internationally.

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