



YUUNGNAQPIALLERPUT

(The Way We Genuinely Live):

Masterworks of Yup'ik Science and Survival



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan. 3, 2008

Media Contact: Janet Asaro, (907) 343-6151

**Exhibition explores the relationship between art, science
and ethnography within the Yup'ik way of life**

***“Yuungnaqpiallerput (The Way We Genuinely Live):
Masterworks of Yup'ik Science and Survival”***

**On view at the Anchorage Museum Feb. 3 through Oct. 26
Opening reception 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 3,
with a performance by the Kicaput Dancers**

The Yup'ik people have no word for science yet their tools were so well designed that they allowed the Yupiit to live in a land no one else would inhabit. The exhibition “*Yuungnaqpiallerput (The Way We Genuinely Live): Masterworks of Yup'ik Science and Survival*” presents remarkable 19th and early 20th century tools, containers, weapons, watercraft and clothing in an exploration of the scientific principles and processes that have allowed the Yup'ik people to survive in the sub-arctic tundra of the Bering Sea coast. The exhibition is on view Feb. 3 through Oct. 26.

Featuring "masterworks" ranging from a needle made from a crane wing bone to elegant bentwood hunting hats, *The Way We Genuinely Live* elucidates the science behind the design and technology of these objects. Coming from the collections of 13 museums in the U.S. and Germany, more than 200 exhibition objects are the legacy of the intelligence and ingenuity of this ancient culture and illustrate the intimate relationship between humans and their environment.

The exhibition is based on knowledge shared by Yup'ik elders and takes visitors through the seasonal cycle of activities, showcasing tools and materials. At interactive science stations, visitors can engage in hands-on activities that show how and why things work. Video and audio programs document traditional activities as well as the construction of traditional Yup'ik tools. Not just a science exhibit, *The Way We Genuinely Live* is compelling in its presentation of the unique marriage between art,

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science and ethnography. At the exhibition's core is the recognition that the Yup'ik way of life – both past and present – is grounded in deep spiritual values and scientific principles.

Curated by cultural anthropologist Ann Fienup-Riordan, *The Way We Genuinely Live* is a joint project of the Anchorage Museum and the Calista Elders Council, developed with the guidance of Yup'ik elders, scientists, and educators and with major support from the National Science Foundation. In 2009-2010, the exhibition will travel to museums in Fairbanks, Juneau, and Washington, DC. It premiered in September 2007 at the Yupiit Piciryarait Cultural Center and Museum in Bethel, Alaska.

The exhibition was designed by Presentation Design Group of Eugene, Oregon. Video and audio programs were produced by KYUK of Bethel, and the interactive science stations were developed by the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry with advice from Yup'ik elders, staff from Anchorage's Imaginarium Science Discovery Center and national experts in the field of informal science education. The Imaginarium also will host several sessions on Yup'ik Science during its 2008 Summer Science Camps.

The museum gratefully acknowledges the support of the National Science Foundation, Totem Ocean Trailer Express, Northern Air Cargo, Alaska Airlines, BP, ConocoPhillips Alaska, Calista Corporation, Anchorage Museum Foundation and the Anchorage Museum Association.

For more information, call (907) 343-6151.

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Anchorage Museum
AT RASMUSON CENTER

121 West Seventh Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99501
(907) 343-4325 www.anchagemuseum.org

**About the Curator
of
“*Yuungnaqpiallerput* (The Way We Genuinely Live):
Masterworks of Yup’ik Science and Survival”**

Ann Fienup-Riordan, Ph.D.

Ann Fienup-Riordan is a cultural anthropologist who has lived and worked in Alaska since 1973. Her books include *The Nelson Island Eskimo* (1983), *Eskimo Essays* (1990), *Boundaries and Passages* (1994), *The Living Tradition of Yup'ik Masks* (1996) and *Wise Words of the Yup'ik People: We Talk to You because We Love You* (2005).

Between 1994 and 1996 she worked with the Anchorage Museum and the Coastal Yukon Mayors Association to develop the Yup'ik mask exhibit *Agayuliyararput: Our Way of Making Prayer*. From 1997 through 1999 she worked with Yup'ik elders exploring museum collections in a project sponsored by the National Science Foundation titled “Elders in Museums: Fieldwork Turned on Its Head.” She currently works documenting traditional knowledge with the Calista Elders Council, the primary heritage organization in southwest Alaska.

In 2000, the Alaska Federation of Natives presented Fienup-Riordan with its President's Award for her work with Alaska Natives. She won the Governor's Award for Distinguished Humanist Educator in 2001.



Anchorage Museum
AT RASMUSON CENTER

121 West Seventh Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99501
(907) 343-4326 www.anchoragemuseum.org

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Media Contact: Janet Asaro, 343-6151

The Anchorage Museum taps the power of the past with Yup'ik Science programs

The Anchorage Museum presents a series of programs in conjunction with the exhibition *Yuungnaqpiallerput (The Way We Genuinely Live): Masterworks of Yup'ik Science and Survival*, on view Feb. 3 through Oct. 26, 2008

Symposium

**Creating the Exhibition *Yuungnaqpiallerput (The Way We Genuinely Live):
Masterworks of Yup'ik Science and Survival*
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 2, Auditorium**

Moderator: Ann Fienup-Riordan, curator of *Yuungnaqpiallerput (The Way We Genuinely Live): Masterworks of Yup'ik Science and Survival*

This one-day symposium explores the collaboration between Native experts and non-Native scholars resulting in this extraordinary exhibition. Through panel discussions and presentations, Yup'ik elders and museum professionals will share their experience of creating an exhibition that combines Yup'ik philosophy and perspective with western science.

Invited speakers include Yup'ik tradition bearers and educators Paul John, Noah Andrew Sr., Mark John, Vivian Korthuis, Mary Pete, Theresa John, Esther Ilutsik, Alice Rearden, Marie Meade, Elsie Mather and Joan Hamilton; humanities scholars and museum professionals Peter Bolz, Aron Crowell, and Suzi Jones; science center professionals Kathleen McLean, Greg Danner and Melissa Paugh; exhibition evaluator Beverly Serrell; and exhibition designer Michael Whitenack.

Cost is \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members and \$10 for students. Register by Wednesday, Jan. 30, at (907) 343-4326.

This symposium is funded in part by a grant from the Alaska Humanities Forum.

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Opening reception for *Yuungnaqpiallerput, The Way We Genuinely Live: Masterworks of Yup'ik Science and Survival*

1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 3

Celebrate the opening of *Yuungnaqpiallerput, The Way We Genuinely Live: Masterworks of Yup'ik Science and Survival* at a public reception 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 3. The Kicaput Dancers will perform. This event is free and open to the public.

Yup'ik Subsistence Tools Demonstration

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 5 through 9

Noah Andrew and Jack Abraham demonstrate how to make Yup'ik hunting tools such as atlatl, bird spears and seal-hunting harpoons, during the opening week of the exhibition *Yuungnaqpiallerput (The Way We Genuinely Live): Masterworks of Yup'ik Science and Survival*. All demonstrations are included with museum admission.

Science Outreach

In partnership with the Anchorage Museum the Imaginarium is offering science outreach programs on Yup'ik science and technology. Schools interested in the outreach programs can contact the Imaginarium at 276-3179 or email kbeckford@imaginarium.org. The Imaginarium will also host several sessions on Yup'ik science during Its 2008 Summer Science Camps.

For more information on the Anchorage Museum's Yup'ik Science programs call 343-6323.

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YUUNGNAQPIALLERPUT

Woman sewing seal gut parka.

Photo by Leuman M. Waugh

Courtesy National Museum of The American Indian, Smithsonian Institution



YUUNGNAQPIALLERPUT

Snow goggles in different styles

Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center



YUUNGNAQPIALLERPUT

Comb from Sabotnisky for preparing grass, decorated with hair.

Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnography, Harvard University.



YUUNGNAQPIALLERPUT

Woman wearing fur parka.

Photo by Leuman M. Waugh

Courtesy National Museum of The American Indian, Smithsonian Institution