

Collecting, Preserving and Interpreting Juneau-Douglas History and Culture

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Top: Rosita <u>K</u>aaháni Worl Middle: Wooshkeetaan Kootéeyaa Bottom: Yéil Yádi Nathan Jackson wearing the sacred Chilkat Robe. Photography: Michael Penn

## Wooch Yá<u>x</u>: Social and Spiritual Balance By Rosita Worl

Attendees at the recent Wooshkeetaan Kootéeyaa Re-Dedication Ceremony were privileged to see the Tlingit cultural value Wooch Yá<u>x</u>—Social and Spiritual Balance—in action. We were also honored to see clan *at.óowu*-sacred clan regalia and clan hatswhich the Tlingit believe are imbued with the spirits of the clan crests and ancestors.

Tlingit society is divided into moieties or divided between Eagle and Raven clans. Wooch Yáx requires that in a ceremonial setting when one clan speaks, sings, dances, or brings out their *at.óowu*, a clan of the opposite moiety must likewise respond in similar action. Should the opposite clan fail to respond to the speech, song, or dance, or fail to bring out their clan *at.óowu*, spirits will go wandering, cause ill will, and disrupt social harmony.

In this totem pole re-dedication ceremony, the Wooshkeetaan clan—supported by their sister Eagle clan members—celebrated the restoration and the raising of their totem pole, which depicts their clan crests and history. The Wooshkeetaan clan members offered words of appreciation to all who supported restoring and raising their totem pole. They thanked the artist, Nathan Jackson of the Raven Lukaa<u>x</u>.ádi clan, who initially carved the Wooshkeetaan pole and then later did the work to restore the totem pole in conjunction with the City Museum.

Members of the Raven L'eeneidí clan, led by their spokesperson as well as the L'ukna<u>x</u>.ádi clan, responded to the words of the Wooshkeetaan and other Eagles who spoke. The presence of the Raven clans in this ceremony brought spiritual balance and also validated the Wooshkeetaan's ownership of the totem pole.

In response to the recognition of Nathan Jackson, his clan unexpectedly ceremoniously presented their sacred *at.óowu*, a Chilkat Robe that depicts the story of how they acquired the sockeye salmon as their crest. This robe with the sockeye salmon crest

# **Director's Letter**



We are back! It's been two years since the City Museum has operated at full capacity during the summer but I'm pleased to confirm that on May 2<sup>nd</sup> we shifted to extended days and hours and we are now open seven days a week. The shift to summer also means new exhibits. In the Murray Gallery, visitors can enjoy *Portrait of* 

Alaska: A Rie Muñoz Retrospective and in the Map Gallery we've partnered with the Jensen-Olson Arboretum (JOA), Caroline Jensen's gift to the City and Borough of Juneau, to celebrate the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the JOA with an exhibit. These new exhibits are noteworthy because they focus on women who both hold distinction in Juneau's history and left lasting legacies. Personally, I can identify with both of these women who moved to Juneau as single career minded women. Caroline (née Hoff) was transferred here in 1947 to help set up the USGS offices in Juneau and Rie (née Mounier) arrived in 1950 while on an adventure aboard the *Princess Louise*. She fell in love with Juneau and managed to get herself a job and place to live before her ship headed south again.

While some might set gardening and painting apart, I believe these are both creative practices that feed each other. In the JOA exhibit you'll see inspired paintings of flowers and tranquility by the sea by various Plein Rein painters. And in the *Portrait of Alaska* exhibit, Rie captures so many of the everyday activities that we all enjoy, like fishing, berry picking, and gardening.

I'd like to think these two women were great friends and shared many conversations about their passions for painting and gardening, but regardless, they are now side by side at the City Museum through October.

It is with great gratitude that we thank Juan Muñoz and the Muñoz gallery and Ginger Hudson, JOA Manager and the Friends of the JOA for their contributions to each of these exhibits. I know you will enjoy the unique perspectives both Rie and Caroline bring to the place we call home.

On March 11<sup>th</sup>, one of the biggest objects in our permanent collection, Wooshkeetaan Kootéeyaa (totem pole), was returned to public display inside the State Office Building. While the Kootéeyaa remains in our collection, the State of Alaska has generously agreed to host it inside the

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### **Mission and Vision**

The Juneau-Douglas City Museum fosters among its diverse audiences an awareness of Juneau's cultural heritage, values and community memory so we may draw strength and perspective from the past, inspire learning, and find purpose for the future.

As a public trust, we collect, preserve, interpret, and exhibit those materials that document the cultures and history of the Juneau and Douglas area.

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- Juneau Douglas City Museum





### **Continued from page 1**



**Top:** Yéil Yádi Nathan Jackson wearing the sacred Chilkat Robe. **Top & Below:** Eagles present their ancient clan hat.



Photography: Michael Penn

design also serves as the title to their homeland in the Chilkoot Lake area.

Although it was not written into the formal agenda, the ceremonial presentation of the Raven Lukaa<u>x</u>.ádi *at.óowu* required the Eagles to respond likewise. The Wooshkeentaan ceremoniously presented their ancient Eagle clan hat. This was followed by words from other Eagle clans including the Shangukeidí and the Kaagwaantaan clan members. It is considered to be a great honor to see a clan's *at.óowu*.

This dual action between the Raven and Eagle clans demonstrated the ongoing practice of validating clan ownership of its *at.óowu* and maintaining harmony and social and spiritual balance.

> Rosita <u>K</u>aaháni Worl Eagle of the Thunderbird Clan Chilkat House Lowered from the Sun in Klukwan Child of the Lukaa<u>x</u>.ádi Clan



Left: Yéil Yádi Nathan Jackson Nathan Jackson wearing his clan's sacred *at.óowu*, a Chilkat Robe that depicts the story of how they acquired the sockeye salmon as their crest. **Right:** Seikooni Fran Houston leads song and

dance.



#### **Director's Letter Continued**

SOB into the foreseeable future. After the successful raising the Kootéeyaa, the Áak'w Kwáan and Wooshkeetaan proceeded with a rededication ceremony.

Gunalchéesh to Dr. Rosita Worl, our guest contributor, who opened the ceremony celebrating this raising. In her article, she speaks to the significance of the day. It took many people, organizations, and CBJ and AK State staff to make this happen and we are grateful to everyone who contributed. In addition to enjoying the photos in this publication, you can watch the livestream of the ceremony on our YouTube channel.

Looking forward to seeing you back at the City Museum this summer and fall.

~Beth Weigel

# Collections



## A Message from the Curator

It has been an exciting year behind the scenes here at the City Museum. Our solo artist exhibits were all wildly popular and our annual 12x12 Community Art Show had a great number of submissions. Our summer season has started with a bang with two new, exciting, and colorful exhibits that will run through mid-October.

Our Portrait of Alaska: A Rie Muñoz Retrospective exhibit focuses on the life and work of legendary Juneau artist, Rie Muñoz. After arriving in Juneau in 1950, Muñoz spent over 60 years traveling around the state and painting every day Alaskan scenes in her unique expressionist style. The exhibit includes pieces ranging from her early career before she had developed her signature style to the types of paintings whose originals and prints hang in homes the world over. Visitors will also see the less known media that Muñoz worked in such as tapestry, political cartoons, glass, books, ceramics, and serigraphs. This exhibit was completed with the invaluable support and partnership of the Rie Muñoz Gallery and the Muñoz family.

Our other new exhibit highlights the Jensen-Olson Arboretum. Located on Pearl Harbor, the Arboretum houses the nationally-accredited collection for the genus Primula, commonly known as the primrose. It was a gift to CBJ from long-time resident and Master Gardner, Caroline Jensen. Visitors to this exhibit will also see several paintings of the Arboretum by the Plein Rein Painters, for whom the Arboretum is a favorite painting site. This exciting exhibit is a collaborative effort between the City Museum, the Arboretum, and the Plein Rein Painters.

I am also sad to share that I will be leaving the City Museum in August. I will be moving back to join my husband in Aberdeen, Scotland and start our life together. It was not an easy decision and I will forever cherish my time here. The City Museum has such an amazing staff and cadre of volunteers that I loved working with. I am proud of the many unique and important projects that I was encouraged to pursue by this fantastic team. The City Museum has been working on the forefront of museum theory and policy and I look forward to seeing it continue to lead the way in the areas of restorative justice, difficult histories, and more inclusive museum interpretation. Thank you everyone for allowing me to be part of your museum experience.

## New In the Museum Store



Glass Herring by Ratchet Constructs Rachael Juzeler is a local Juneau artist who works with glass and other repurposed materials to create unique works of art. These glass herring measure approximately 6 inches in length and can be hung singly or linked together to create a chain of herring.



### **NW Coast Sewing Art Kits**

Designed by local Tlingit culture educational specialist, Victoria Johnson, these art kits include everything needed to sew NW Coast formline designs. There are two different sewing kits to choose from- killer whale and wolf.

# **Recent Acquisitions**

### Calhoun Avenue Overpass, 1955 By Rie Muñoz

Donated by the estate of Katie Hurley in honor of her father, Olaf Torkelsen. As Juneau Street Commissioner, Torkelsen was instrumental in the construction of the 1935 Calhoun overpass depicted in this painting. The overpass provided a safe way for children to cross the street to get to school. This painting is an early example of the work of Rie Muñoz before she had developed her signature expressionist style. It is currently on display in our *Portrait of Alaska: A Rie Muñoz Retrospective* exhibit.





### Sketchbooks and Drawings by Rie Muñoz

Rie Muñoz's sketchbooks were among her most cherished possessions, From 1963 to 2013, her field sketches were the basis for her life's work in watercolor paintings. In all, the 149 sketchbooks chronicle 50 years of travel throughout Alaska.

With the eye of a cartoonist, Rie captured emotion in a few spare lines. In the margins of the sketch, she noted details such as color, which she usually ignored, as well as shopping lists, phone numbers and notes to self.

Muñoz carried a sketchbook at all times, drawing whatever caught her eye, fishermen repairing nets, children playing, village life, and cannery workers the latter, at times, thinking she might be a safety inspector jotting notes of possible infractions. When shown the sketches they would soon relax and all would share a good laugh.



Photography: Sydney Akagi



Several of her sketchbooks are currently on display in our *Portrait of Alaska: A Rie Muñoz Retrospective* exhibit.

# **Museum News**



Adriana in Spain (2019)



Lois & Jed on Mt Roberts (April 2022)



Barb Lindh in 1962 at Mendenhall Glacier

## Meet Adriana Botelho Alvarez

In February, Adriana Botelho Alvarez was hired as the City Museum's new Administrative Assistant replacing Mindy Henricksen who retired. Adriana is a born-and-raised Alaskan who graduated from the University of Alaska Southeast with a BLA in Anthropology and Biology. Adriana first became interested in museums when she served as an intern at the Sealaska Heritage Institute. Later, Adriana interned at the Alaska State Museum before joining ExhibitAK where she worked for two years.

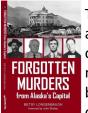
## **New Museum Volunteers**

**Lois Killewich** began volunteering at the City Museum in November 2021. Lois grew up in Juneau in the 1960s and graduated from Juneau-Douglas High School in 1969. She spent the majority of her adult life in the lower 48 as a physician in the practice of vascular surgery, but decided to move back to Juneau after she retired. Lois is an avid hiker and outdoorsperson, and can be seen on the trails around Juneau with her enthusiastic yellow lab Jed.

**Barbara Lindh** joined our team of volunteers in May this year. Barb came to Juneau in 1946 and graduated from Juneau-Douglas High School in 1963. Barb worked for Alaska Airlines for twenty-three years and later worked part time at the Mendenhall Visitor's Center, and at the Eaglecrest ski area where she was a ski instructor. During her time at Eaglecrest, Barb started a ski program for women. A lifelong skier, Barb is passionate about Juneau.

## Summer Programs

### **Book Signing & Presentation**



This July, Betsy Longenbaugh and Ed Schoenfeld will present on historic Juneau and Douglas murders. Betsy has published a book and we are waiting for our copies to arrive. Those

who attend the presentation will be able to purchase a book and have it signed by Betsy. The exact date of the event will be determined once our books arrive.



Holiday Weekend Kick-off

On July 1st the City Museum will be open from 9am- 7pm with free admission from 4pm-7pm. We will provide free build-your-own wooden flag kits and refreshments.

### Walking Tours

This summer we are offering weekly Alaska State Capitol tours and Historic Downtown Juneau walking tours. In addition, we offer Treadwell tours and True Crime tours monthly. For a complete schedule of all our tours and programs, visit our website at Juneau.org/museum Pg. 6

# Summer Exhibits

### Portrait of Alaska: A Rie Muñoz Retrospective

May 6 through October 29, 2022

Rie Muñoz is famous for her paintings of the daily activities of Alaskans. Currently on display at the City Museum is a collection of works spanning Muñoz's lifetime in an exhibition titled, *Portrait of Alaska, A Rie Muñoz Retrospective.* This exhibit includes original watercolor paintings and prints, political cartoons, tapestries, sketchbooks, composite drawings, and a glimpse into the life and times of Rie Muñoz.

### Jensen-Olson Arboretum Celebrating 15 years as a botanical gem

July 1 through October 29, 2022

In Juneau, the Jensen-Olson Arboretum (JOA) has become a learning site for community members of all ages. Located 23 miles north of downtown Juneau, school children, scientists, researchers, home gardeners and artists visit the JOA yearly to observe plants, animals, and the intertidal zone. This exhibit celebrates the Jensen-Olson Arboretum and its benefactor, Caroline Jensen, through a large scale slide show, artwork, and information about Caroline Jensen and the JOA.



Halibut \$1, 1985, by Rie Muñoz



View from the Jensen-Olson Arboretum

## **Special Thanks**





AEL&P crew members and Jeff Thole install Wooshkeetaan Kootéeyaa in the Alaska State Office Atrium. **Photography:** Michael Penn.

### **GUNALCHÉESH HÓ HÓ!**

The Juneau-Douglas City Museum thanks the many generous people and organizations who donated money and/or time to make the Wooshkeetaan Kootéeyaa relocation and reraising possible. We also thank the State of Alaska for offering this beautiful location where the totem pole will be preserved and appreciated. These folks made it happen!

### WOOSHKEETAAN

Kaayistaan Marie Olsen Geetl Soon James Jack, Sr. Shaax S'aani Andria Moss Gludas Leimomi Martin Mary John Kaasei Naomi Michalsen Yaanashtúk Mike Tagaban Nei K'ee Tida Dinah Hobson

Laa.éi Kathleen John Ñáa Aan Milo Irish

L'EENEIDÍ Sais Taan Rosa Miller

Seikooni Fran Houston Shaagunastaa Robert Sam

L'UKNAX.ÁDI Seitaan Edward Kunz, Jr.

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SPECIAL THANKS Kiakawduneek Paul Marks Kaakal.dat Florence Sheakley Yeidiklasókw and Kaaháni Rosita Worl Gl'aa K'axk'w Ric lannolino Jim Simard Bob Banghart



### **Summer Admission & Hours**

(May-September 2022)

Monday-Friday 9:00am to 6:00pm Saturday & Sunday 10:00am to 4:30pm

\$6 General Admission\$5 Senior Admission (65 & older)FREE Ages 12 & Younger

### Free Admission for Museum Affiliates



### Become a Member of the FoJDCM

6 Membership Levels Available

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