Kodiak Historical Society
Sarah Harrington
Margaret Greutert

ARTIST: Perry Eaton
RESIDENCE: Anchorage, AK

PIECE: Island Song
MEDIUM: Bronze and stone
COMPLETED: 2019
DIMENSIONS: 84 x 60"
PRICE: $24,000

RATIONALE:
ARTWORK
Collecting contemporary artwork is a priority in the Kodiak Historical Society & Baranov Museum collection policy (section 2.3D). Currently, the museum does not care for any artwork by Perry Eaton or outdoor sculpture. After many conversations with the artist, he has proposed a commissioned work titled “Island Song”. “Island Song” is an outdoor sculpture featuring a large bronze mask set against a locally sourced Kodiak stone. The mask is first carved from 450-year-old red cedar found on a beach in Afognak Island and then cast in bronze. The stone will be sourced from Kodiak Island as the artist envisions the sculpture as rising out of the island of Kodiak.

SIGNIFICANCE
The bronze and stone sculpture emerging from the ground beside the museum’s enduring log structure is a powerful symbol for our community. Our supporters realize this sculpture incites dialog surrounding Kodiak’s unique history and invigorates the museum grounds. Perry writes, “This is a particularly approbate work for this museum. The Baranov Museum is the oldest standing structure in Alaska and was built to be the headquarters of the Russian America Company. As such, it was pivotal in the interaction between the indigenous Sugpiaq Alutiiq people of the island and the Russians. Shelikov’s brutality in the early years is well documented, but over time the partnership between the Russians and the island people became one of mutual benefit. All too often this partnership is overlooked. The placement of this simple sculpture will add time tested focus on historical reality. It’s all part of the song of Kodiak Island.”

The timing of acquiring “Island Song” is particularly significant. The museum is in the middle of our Exhibit Redesign and Facility Upgrade Project and targeted to re-open April 2019. We are renovating the exhibits to create more gallery space, improve space for educational programs, and include more stories and perspectives on our unique history. The unveiling of “Island Song” signifies the re-opening of the museum as a more inclusive space than ever before. The Baranov Museum has struggled connecting with the Alaska Native population because of the history of the building. Reopening after our redesign is a pivotal transitional period for our institution to address shortcomings. Island Song signifies the peacemaking and coming together of two cultures as Perry describes above.

SUPPORT
We have much support for acquiring “Island Song”. Please note the attached letter of support from the Alutiiq Museum. Additionally, a local construction company pledged an in-kind donation for installing the artwork on our grounds. The City of Kodiak will be donating the landscaping in preparation for the sculpture by getting rid of the surrounding bushes and cleaning up the main walkway through our grounds.
We consulted with Conservator, Ellen Carrlee at the Alaska State Museum about the preventative conservation and maintenance needs for this piece (see attached Preventative Conservation and Maintenance). Ellen is excited about incorporating more outdoor sculpture in Alaska museums and approves of our maintenance plans, artwork materials, and sculpture site.

METHOD OF SHARING
“Island Song” will be on continual display in the Baranov Museum front garden space (see attached Sculpture Site). Perry Eaton will be completing the sculpture on-site in March 2019. Upon completion, the Baranov Museum will hold a public event unveiling and celebrating the new sculpture with the artist.

ARTIST
Perry Eaton is an established Alaska artist who has shown in many museums and galleries around the world (see attached Exhibition Resume). In 2016, he was granted Honorary Citizenship and the key to the city of Boulogne-Sur-Mer, France as an honor for curating the exhibit “Alaska: Passé/Present”. Perry has served on many boards and commissions including his appointment by President George Bush as a trustee of the Institute of American Indian Art in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

The concept for “Island Song” grew out of Perry’s attachment to Kodiak Island and the museum grounds. He was born about 200 feet away from the sculpture site. Perry notes, “Growing up on my father’s fishing boat plus a life-long professional career with our Native Corporations has given me an inseparable attachment to the Island and its people. I am a member of the Sun’aq Tribe of Sugpiaq Alutiiq people and my family comes from the village of Ouzinkie...I currently find myself totally absorbed in the expression of my Alaska Native identity. I create traditionally based Sugpiaq Alutiiq masks...As an artist they give me license to move between time, place, beings, and even worlds.”

PROVENANCE:
Please find attached the additional documentation needed to apply for a commissioned artwork and Perry Eaton’s exhibition resume.
Shows and exhibits

L’appel des Grands Espaces; Pristine America: June 7, 2018 Orenda International Gallery, Paris France

Masters of Disguise IV: Invitational Group Mask Exhibition; Stonington Gallery, Seattle Washington, June 7, through June 30, 2018,

Four Directions; New Directions: 2017 ORENDA International Gallery, Paris France

ALASKA NATIVE MASKS: ART CEREMONY ; Sealaska Heritage Institute, Juneau Alaska, May 1 thru September 30, 2017

Sealaska Heritage Institute; August 2016, Sealaska Heritage institute, Juneau Alaska

Exposition, ALASKA Passe/Present; June 2016, Musee de Boulogne-sur-Mer, France

Boucliers, Masques, et Tambours: 2015, ORENDA International Gallery, Paris France

Communities; Disaster; And Change: June 2014, Valdez Museum & Historical Archives, Valdez, Alaska

Masks and Transparences; 2013 ORENDA International Gallery, Paris France

La reconquete par l’art, Festival America de Vincennes, September 2012, Vincennes, France

Cendres et Diamants 2; June 2011 Galerie ORENDA, Paris, France

Exposition Au College Pilatre de Rozier de Wimille; August 2010, Permis de Musee/er, Chateau Musee, Boulogne-sur-Mer, France


Virtual Subsistence; October 2009, MTS Gallery, Anchorage Alaska

Tradition, Inspiration, Innovation: New works from Alutiiq Artist; August 2007, Pratt Museum, Homer Alaska

Alaska 2005: Native Arts Now; May 2005, Kenai Convention and Visitors Bureau, Kenai Alaska

Inspiration; An Alaska Native Art Exhibition; August 2010, Pratt Museum, Homer Alaska

Icons Of Life; October 2010, MTS Gallery, Anchorage Alaska

Transformation Tools: Alutiiq Masks Of Kodiak Island; February 2010, Covenant Fine Arts Center, Calvin College, Grand Rapids Michigan

Kodiak Masks; November 2004, International Gallery of Contemporary Art, Anchorage Alaska

Giinaquq: Like a Face, Sugpiaq Masks Of the Kodiak Archipelago; June 2009, Chateau Musee, Boulogne sur Mer, France

Two Views: Water, Boats, and Fisherman; Perry eaton & Sergey Burasovsky: 2002 Moscow House of Photography, Moscow, Russia

Solo Mask Exhibition; 2001, Alutiiq Museum & Archaeological Repository, Kodiak Alaska

Museums

Alutiiq Museum and Archaeological Repository; Kodiak, Alaska

Anchorage Museum at Rasmunson Center; Anchorage, Alaska

Sheldon Jackson State Museum; Sitka, Alaska

Musee de Boulogne-sur-Mer; Boulogne-sur-Mer, France

Covenant Fine Arts Center; Grand Rapids, Michigan
Bronze mask by Perry Eaton, (Singer) similar to the one that will be in Island Song

Potential stones at a quarry in Kodiak

Perry Eaton
Sketch for Island Song
Timeline
Artist Perry Eaton will complete sculpture *Island Song* in March, 2019 on-site at the museum as the stone will be sourced from Kodiak. He will begin securing the stone and casting the bronze mask in November if we are awarded funding.

Payment Schedule
Payments will be made directly to artist Perry Eaton. The total cost of the sculpture is $24,000. Half ($12,000) will be paid to the artist upon possible grant award. The other half ($12,000) will be paid upon completion of the artwork.

Justification for Commission
The Kodiak Historical Society & Baranov Museum recognizes the need in our community for this symbolic sculpture on our grounds as explained in our application narrative. With outdoor sculpture in particular, it is important to consider placement and preventative conservation before the artwork is fabricated to prevent future challenges. With this commission, we were able to carefully plan for such a significant piece. This sculpture will be the first outdoor sculpture cared for by the museum and one of very few in the entire city. We feel it is important to provide an opportunity for artists to work in the realm of outdoor sculpture and we are very excited to work with Perry Eaton on this commission. Thank you for your consideration.
October 1, 2018

Art Acquisition Grant Review Committee
Museums Alaska
PO Box 80641
Fairbanks, AK 99708

Re: Purchase of commissioned artwork from Perry Eaton

Dear Review Committee,

Cama’i – Hello. I am writing to support the Baranov Museum’s proposed purchase of an original work by Alutiiq artist Perry Eaton. We understand the Baranov would like to commission Mr. Eaton to develop an outdoor installation featuring a bronze sculpture of an Alutiiq masks anchored to a piece of Kodiak granite. We think this sculpture will be an important addition to the grounds of the Russian American Magazin and an important juxtaposition to the colonial history of the building. The sculpture will encourage visitors to consider other aspects of Kodiak history and spur community discussion. Please consider this letter our strong endorsement of the project.

Mr. Eaton is one of the foremost contemporary artists from the Kodiak Alutiiq region. He is a celebrated carver known for his artwork, mentorship of students, efforts to locate, document, and share ancestral artwork in repositories around the world, and advocate for Alaska Native arts. He is a leader in the Alutiiq arts renaissance. As such, he is an excellent choice to commission a work symbolizing Kodiak’s Native heritage. He is also personally connected to the City of Kodiak. He was born just blocks from the Baranov Museum.

Finally, as Mr. Eaton is a member of the Alutiiq Museum’s board of directors, the Alutiiq Museum is not able to purchase artwork from him. While some of his early carvings are part of our collection, his recent works are not represented. This commission would help to represent the evolution of Mr. Eaton’s style and provide the Kodiak community with access to an iconic installation. Please give the Baranov Museum’s request your most serious consideration. The installation they propose would benefit many in our community.

Quyanaa—Thank you,

April Laktonen Counceller, Executive Director
april@alutiiqmuseum.org
Sculpture Site

We chose this sculpture site in the front garden (blue circle) because it will be an ideal viewing spot for visitors and a safe location for the sculpture.

The current flowerbed and bushes will be removed in October thanks to an in-kind donation from the City of Kodiak. The sculpture will stand on top of the small hill where the flowerbed and bushes currently stand. This will allow for good drainage around the sculpture.

The sculpture will be set back from the main walking path so visitors can easily view the entire sculpture from afar.

The sculpture will be set away from all trees to reduce bird droppings and leaves/pine needles falling onto it. The pine trees on the right block wind from the channel behind them to reduce sculpture exposure. The sculpture stone will have a rounded top to dissuade birds from perching.

The museum has purchased a new security system as part of our exhibit redesign and facility upgrade project. A security camera will be installed this winter on the museum porch. This camera will record the sculpture site to dissuade potential vandalism.

We have purchased new, brighter, outdoor lighting for the museum porch to light up the museum yard at night that will also reduce the potential of vandalism.

The sculpture will have a layer of sacrificial small stones around the base. This will protect the sculpture from lawn mowing and weed-whackers.
Preventative Conservation and Maintenance

Based on our conversations with the artist and Conservator Ellen Carrlee at the Alaska State Museum, we have a clear understanding of the maintenance needs of *Island Song*.

Location
As stated above in the Sculpture Site section, we carefully chose an outdoor location based on the sculpture and visitor needs. The location has good drainage, is set away from foliage, dissuades bird droppings, has a security camera, is well lit at night, and has sacrificial small stones around the base to protect it from lawn maintenance. Kodiak has a temperate climate and we do not expect heavy snowfall piling up around the sculpture. However, during the winter we salt our walking path and have chosen to place *Island Song* on top of a hill approximately 10 feet from this path to avoid any salt draining on the sculpture or shoveled snow surrounding it.

Maintenance
The Baranov Museum will be responsible for maintaining the sculpture *Island Song*. The bronze mask portion of the sculpture will be coated with a microcrystalline wax and reapplied once every year by the museum. Artist Perry Eaton will demonstrate how to apply the wax upon completion and the museum will document this process. This wax will act as a sacrificial coating to protect from weather and potential vandalism. The artist will be considering stones that are smooth and less porous so that organic debris can easily be brushed off and potential vandalism with paint can be washed from the surface and not seep into pits in the stone.

Artist Intent
Artist Perry Eaton has a history of working with bronze and creating bronze masks. Although he gives the bronze a specific patina, he views the changing of color over time as a natural process and as part of the artwork. The stone should be kept reasonably clean of debris and light biological growth on the stone surface is expected. The artist does not view this negatively, but rather as part of the stone that is literally rising out of the earth as a natural object. As stated above, a protective wax coating should be applied to the bronze elements once per year.

Safety
The stone will be partially set into the ground with a stable wide rock base. A local construction company pledged an in-kind donation to install the stone safely on the museum grounds. The stone chosen will be vertical and smooth and will prevent children from climbing on it. The smooth bronze oval mask will be set flush on the stone minimizing potential hand-holds. The sculpture is free from any sharp or pointed elements and will be well lit at night.
Other Commissioned Artwork by Perry Eaton and Price Justification

Perry Eaton recently created this public art commission for the Afognak Native Corporation in Anchorage. The price for this piece was $40,000.

The $24,000 asking price for sculpture *Island Song* is therefore reasonable. The masks below are carved out of wood and set against wood planks. *Island Song* is made from first carving a mask out of 450-year-old wood from Afognak, then casting it in bronze, next obtaining a monumental piece of stone from Kodiak Island, and finally setting the mask against the stone using bronze fasteners. The material cost for *Island Song* is higher than the piece below, however, the overall asking price is lower because *Island Song* is a smaller piece.