



Alaska is home to a growing market of original Alaska Native art. Often, the artists who create these unique pieces live in remote, rural communities, with limited access to buyers or travelers visiting the state. The **Silver Hand program** was created by the State Council on the Arts to help promote Alaska Native artists by providing them with marketing tools and a Silver Hand seal of authenticity on their work. The emblem of a black oval with a silver hand and the phrase “Authentic Alaska Native Art From Alaska” certifies that the artwork was created by hand in Alaska by an Alaska Native artist, is original contemporary and traditional and not a reproduction or manufactured work.

Alaska Native art is often created using materials acquired by subsistence hunting and gathering. Artists find creative ways to manipulate the raw materials resulting in beautiful creations such as masks, wooden sculptures and baskets made with coastal grass decorated with intricate traditional designs and trimmed with dyed seal gut, to name a few. Native Art also extends to clothing and other items made of leather or fur parkas, mittens, slippers and moccasins. Bowhead whale baleen or whalebone artwork is another common material used, mainly by artists who come from one of the North Slope villages.

Eligible artists must be at least 18 years old and have documentation showing they belong to a federally recognized Alaska Native tribe. The seal is valid for two years and may not be attached to any replicas or reconstructed items not made in the State of Alaska.

If taking the artwork out of state, it is important to make sure there are no travel restrictions. The following is a helpful guide to traveling with Alaska Native Art.

[Customs Guide to Alaska Native Art](#)

There are a host of annual events that provide an opportunity to purchase Silver Hand products and, in most cases, meet the artists who created them. For a full list of Silver Hand permit holders please email saunders.mcneill@alaska.gov with full name and contact information.

Alaska Juneau Public Market

Centennial Hall, Juneau

[Alaska Juneau Public Market](#)

Anchorage Market and Festival

West Third Avenue between C and E streets, Anchorage

[Anchorage Market and Festival](#)

Arts & Crafts Emporium

Dena'ina Civic and Convention Center,
Anchorage

[Arts & Crafts Emporium](#)

Christmas Village

Dena'ina Civic and Convention Center,
Anchorage

[Christmas Village](#)

Holiday Food and Gift Festival

Dena'ina Civic and Convention Center,
Anchorage

[Holiday Food and Gift Festival](#)

Fairbanks Holiday Marketplace

Carlson Center, Fairbanks

[Fairbanks Holiday Marketplace](#)

Ketchikan Blueberry Arts Festival

Main Street, Ketchikan

[Ketchikan Blueberry Arts Festival](#)

Ketchikan Winter Arts Faire

Ted Ferry Civic Center and Cape Fox
Lodge, Ketchikan

[Ketchikan Winter Arts Faire](#)

Make it Alaskan Festival

Sullivan Arena, Anchorage

[Make it Alaskan Festival](#)

Mat-Su Holiday Marketplace

Menard Sports Center, Wasilla

[Mat-Su Holiday Marketplace](#)

Sitka Artisans Market

Harrigan Centennial Hall

[Sitka Artisans Market](#)

UAA Crafts Fair

Student Union, University of Alaska
Anchorage

[UAA Crafts Fair](#)

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