



Museums Alaska - Art Acquisition Fund 2019 Round 1
Alutiiq Heritage Foundation (Alutiiq Museum & Archaeological
Repository)

Application #AAF2019R10026

Primary Contact: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Document Generated: Thursday, March 28th 2019, 11:20 am

Artwork To Be Purchased (Information)

Artist Information

Artist Name

Linda Infante Lyons

Artist Address

[REDACTED]

Artist Email Address

[REDACTED]

Artist Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Artwork Information

Title of Artwork

Sunset at Pyramid Mountain

Medium

Oil on canvas

Date Completed

(If only year is known, enter December 31.)

2019-1-30

Dimensions

60" x 48" 1.5"

Artwork to be Purchased From

From the artist

Price of Artwork

\$6,500

Funding Request

(Provide the dollar amount of your request. You may apply for the full price of the artwork. If the full price of the artwork exceeds the allotted amount [\$35,000 per institution per year], you must provide a detailed fundraising plan and demonstrate that additional funds are secured or in reserves.)

\$6,500

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MUSEUMS
ALASKA

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Artwork To Be Purchased (Digital File)



Title: SUNSET AT
PYRAMID MOUNTAIN
Artist 1: Linda Lyons
Created: 2019

[Sunset at Pyramid
Mountain](#)



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Narrative

RATIONALE: Please describe how this particular artwork meets the collecting goals of the museum as shown in its collection policy and its collecting plan. Applicant should address such points as the significance of the artist, the quality of the work, the subject, the medium, and the style.

Please carefully review the current guidelines, including footnotes.

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Describe the artwork: What is it made of, how was it made, what story does it tell, when was it made, has it been shown, where will it be purchased? Clearly explain the artistic merit of the artwork.

(5000 characters max)

The Alutiiq Museum seeks to purchase *Sunset at Pyramid Mountain*, a large oil on canvas landscape painting by Alutiiq artist Linda Lyons. This painting was completed in January of 2019, in Lyons' Anchorage studio and has not been shown. The painting remains in Lyons' possession, and will be purchased directly from her.

This painting shows a familiar Kodiak Island landscape, centered around Pyramid Mountain. The mountain's distinctive, three-sided, snow-capped peak rises above coastal hills flecked with colonizing spruce trees, and ocean waters tinted orange by the setting sun. The scene is a common one on northern Kodiak Island. Pyramid Mountain is one of the most recognizable peaks near the City of Kodiak, for its shape and central location. Drive the Kodiak road system or take any plane ride out of Kodiak Airport and you will see Pyramid. Lyons' painting shows the mountain as seen from the shore of Chiniak Bay. It is a portrait of both the mountain and coastal Kodiak. Lyons says that the quiet landscape reminded her of beach-combing with her Alutiiq grandmother. As such, the painting shows both an Alutiiq place and reflects the artist's Native heritage.

Lyons, an avid photographer, often takes pictures to inspire her painted works. She captured this scene of Pyramid Mountain during a 2016 trip to Kodiak to create art with students in the Alutiiq communities of Karluk (the ancestral home of her family) and Old Harbor. The painting is particularly meaningful to the Alutiiq Museum because it reflects Lyons' efforts to share art with youth in Alutiiq villages. It is a result of her travels to Kodiak and strong connections to her Alutiiq ancestry.

Describe the artist: Who made the piece, where were they trained and where do they work today, how does the artwork reflect the artist's personal history and body of work?

(5000 characters max)

Linda Lyons comes from a Kodiak Alutiiq family with ancestral ties to the village of Karluk. She was raised in Anchorage, but her spent summers visiting with her Karluk grandparents and participating in subsistence activities. She attributes these experiences, and especially the open spaces of Alaska's natural environments, as shaping her artistic vision.

"My current work reflects my own emotional attachment to Alaskan coastal landscapes. Through my grandmother's stories and exploration of her island, my artistic style has developed and is akin to the aesthetic realm of Magic Realism. I believe we are marked at a young age by what we see, and experience and our life is informed by the genetic memory of those who came before us."

Lyons' is known for her Alaskan landscape paintings, which depict mountains, glaciers, tidal flats, meadows, rivers, and rock slides with a tranquil, alluring feel. She describes her style as simple and static, without much movement. She carefully conceals brush strokes to create a smooth surface to her paintings and uses soft colors and lines to show the core of the items she portrays. These



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techniques give her works an ethereal feeling. By showing the essence of a landscape in this way, she exposes its underlying spiritual quality. *Sunset at Pyramid Mountain* is characteristic of her quite smooth style of depicting Alaskan scenery and her colorful, mystical presentation.

Lyons is an accomplished Alaskan artist. She earned a BA in biology from Whitman College and then moved to Chile and studied art at the Vina del Mar Fine Arts School. For the past eighteen years, she has been living in Anchorage, showing her paintings around the state at the Anchorage Museum, Bunnell St. Gallery, Wells Street Gallery, Artique, Blue Holloman Gallery, Valdez Museum, International Gallery of Contemporary Art, Alaska Native Arts Foundation, and Alaska Humanities Forum. Numerous organizations have collected her work, including the Anchorage Museum, Alaska Contemporary Art Bank, Museum of the North, Pratt Museum, and the Alaska State Museum. She is also the recipient of many grants and awards, including a national fellowship from the Native Arts and Culture Foundation and a Rasmuson Foundation Artist Fellowship. In addition, Lyons has been teaching painting in rural Alaskan communities for fifteen years through a variety of artist in residency programs.

Describe the significance: How does this piece fit into the museum's collecting plans? Why is it important to the museum? Clearly state how the proposed purchase conforms to the mission of the institution.

(5000 characters max)

The museum's collections plan specifically identifies works of contemporary Alutiiq art as a top-level collecting priority. In preserving and sharing Alutiiq traditions, the Alutiiq Museum seeks collections that represent all eras of Alutiiq history. Modern objects-works of contemporary art, ethnographic items, and recent artifacts-help to tell the continuing story of the Alutiiq people and illustrate the ties between the museum's prehistoric collections and the present. They promote the recognition and perpetuation of Alutiiq culture and increase feelings of dignity in Alutiiq people by illustrating the vibrancy and endurance of Native traditions.

Among modern objects, the museum desires contemporary works of Alutiiq art. This goal is identified in our board approved collections plan (on file with Museums Alaska). Such works exemplify Alutiiq identity in the modern world by uniting traditional techniques, forms, materials, or subjects with those of the 21st century. They are symbolic of Alutiiq culture in the broader realm of modern experience.

Sunset at Pyramid Mountain would be a valuable addition to our collections. It is by an established Alutiiq artist, inspired by her ancestral home, and well-known statewide. We have just two other examples of Lyons' work and want to expand our collection to include additional examples of her Kodiak-themed work. Moreover, the painting illustrates an iconic view of the landscape and one that has been part of Alutiiq experience for millennia and is instantly recognizable to Kodiak residents today. Yet, this view is uniquely interpreted through Lyons' style, revealing both the beauty and mystical qualities of the landscape. In Alutiiq cosmology all things in the world-plants, animals, snow, and mountains have an inner spirit, a consciousness that is aware of human action. The mystical feel of this painting suggests that there is more to the landscape than its physical structures, there are underlying spirits. This is a particularly Alutiiq view of the world, and one that can be interpreted through the painting. As such, the painting supports our mission of preserving and share Alutiiq traditions.

Describe the method of sharing: What is the museum's plan for sharing this work with the public? Discuss any plans for exhibition, loans, publications, online resources, newsletter, press release, etc. where the piece will be made available. Clearly state how the proposed purchase meets collection and exhibition goals of the institution.



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(5000 characters max)

The Alutiiq Museum will distribute a press release announcing the painting's purchase, post the release to our website, and link it to our social media pages. We will also add an image of the painting to our online art gallery, found on our website at (<https://alutiiqmuseum.org/explore/collections/types-of-collections/contemporary-art>). This gallery shows all of the works purchased by the museum through the Art Acquisition Fund. Additionally, we will share the purchase in an article for our spring 2019 newsletter to be mailed to museum members and shared through our website and e-blast.

The Alutiiq Museum's broad exhibit goals are to interpret the Alutiiq experience in ways that show both traditional culture and the perpetuation of Alutiiq lifeways in the modern era. Sharing Sunset at Pyramid Mountain will help us demonstrate the modern importance of the natural environment and ongoing cultural links to the natural world. Although we do not have immediate plans to exhibit this piece of Lyons' work, it supports upcoming exhibit projects. We are in discussion with the Kodiak Area Native Association about a one-year show of contemporary works in their facility that could include Sunset at Pyramid Mountain. The painting is also a possible addition to an update of our subsistence exhibit, planned for 2021.

Our curatorial staff agrees that Lyons' Sunset at Pyramid Mountain meets the museum's established goals and criteria for collecting contemporary artwork. First, as outlined above, the museum's collection plan explicitly names works of Alutiiq art as essential to interpreting Alutiiq heritage. Second, any artwork added to our holding must (1) be produced by an artist with demonstrated experience, (2) display exemplary craftsmanship, (3) tell a unique story that reflects Alutiiq tradition, and (4) be amenable to care and interpretation by museum staff. Lyons is a well-established Alaska Native artist whose paintings interpret her experiences with the environment and people of Alaska. Sunset at Pyramid Mountain represents a landscape known to Alutiiq people for millennia and is inspired by the artist's Alutiiq heritage and a trip to Kodiak. This painting would be an excellent addition to the museum's holdings for both its artistic merit and subject matter.

Clearly explain how the price of the artwork was determined.

(5000 characters max)

Lyons is a well-established artist who sells her work widely. The Alaska State Museum and the Museum of the North recently purchased similarly sized landscape paintings by Lyons for the same price.

Is there anything else the review committee needs to know about your application?

(5000 characters max)

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Provenance

Please provide the provenance of the artwork, insofar as possible (including date of composition, places and dates of showings, awards and dates, and previous owners).

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Provenance

(15000 characters max)

Sunset at Pyramid Mountain is based on a photograph taken by the artist in 2016. It was completed in January 2019 in her Anchorage studio. It remains in the possession of the artist. It has not been shown and will be purchased directly from the artist.

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Optional Attachments

You may attach up to six additional optional attachments.

If you are applying for funding for a commissioned work, you must contact the program administrator in advance of submitting your application, in order to discuss your application and receive information about required additional attachments for commissioned works.

If you need to attach more than six attachments, please contact the program administrator.

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Optional Attachment

[Sunset at Pyramid Mountain.pdf](#)

Optional Attachment

No File Uploaded

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