

NEWS

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for further information

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The revival of traditional and contemporary Native American art in Washington, British Columbia and Alaska will be the subject of a free public slide/lecture by Del McBride, curator of the State Capitol Museum, February 25, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in Lecture Hall Five at The Evergreen State College.

Curator of the museum for the past decade, McBride, a native of Nisqually and a member of the Quinault tribe, will illustrate his hour-long talk with slides of Native American work and a number of artifacts from his personal collection.

Sparked by federal educational and Bicentennial grants, numerous tribes throughout Washington --- including the Spokane, Makah, Yakima, Quinault, Nisqually and Squaxin --- are involved in a wide variety of projects aimed at preserving and further developing Native American art work, McBride says.

His talk will focus on such projects as Daybreak Star, the Native American portion of Fort Lawton Park in Seattle; the Indian museum and carving studio of Chief Lelooska of the Kwakiutl tribe in Ariel, Washington; the Legacy Collection of the British Columbia Provincial Museum in Victoria; and the K'san Project, which involves a number of tribes along the Skeena River in northern British Columbia.

Renewed interest in Native American art began a number of years ago, McBride says. The K'san Project, he notes, was begun more than 20 years ago, but has accomplished a great deal in the past three years. It has completed major restoration of a Native American village, complete with totem poles, costumes and cedar plank long houses. Another major project, outside of Haines, Alaska, has involved the Chilkoot Dancers, who make their own costumes, carve original masks and stage dance

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Dick Nichols, Director
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throughout Alaska and "the lower 48" states. In Sitka, McBride adds, a continuing program brings in Eskimos and Indians from remote places to experiment with different types of carving, printmaking and jewelry --- applying modern technology to development of traditional Native American designs.

McBride, who hopes to work on the Fort Lawton Park project, says he's currently more involved in exhibiting, teaching and lecturing about Native American art, than in doing it. At one time, he was a part of the Nisqually Klee Wyk Studio, which specialized in ceramic tile mural painting and Northwest Indian designs.

A Fine Arts graduate of the University of Washington, McBride has taught at the high school and college levels and has instructed privately throughout the years. His talk is part of Evergreen's "Craftsman In Contemporary Society" course, which continues to offer public lectures Wednesday evenings through March 10.