



## News Release Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

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Contact: Susan Nelson, 715-685-2644

### **Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center in Ashland features Smithsonian Exhibition “Inspirations from the Forest”**

“Inspirations from the Forest,” an exhibition produced by the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage will be featured at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center September 23<sup>rd</sup> through October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2006. This exhibition was developed from the “Forest Service, Culture and Community” program held during the 2005 Smithsonian Folklife Festival. The Festival program commemorated the Forest Service Centennial by highlighting the occupational and cultural traditions of those who live and work in our nation’s forests and rangelands.

This exhibition illustrates how artists, writers, and musicians draw inspiration from the world of nature. “The men and women who work in our national forests and rangelands have very special connections to the land,” says curator Jim Deutsch of the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage. “Through this exhibition, we are exploring the ways in which our national forests – timberlands, grasslands, mountains, and waterways – have inspired artists to create enduring works of art that impress upon us the importance of preserving our natural resources.”

Among the artists whose work is showcased in the exhibition are Keith Bear, flutemaker and storyteller, North Dakota; Jim Denney, landscape painter, Oregon; Terry Evans, photographer, Illinois; Jack Holcomb, guitar maker, Georgia; Dorica Jackson, Chilkat weaver, Alaska; Paula Morin, photographer, Illinois; Heather Murphy, wildlife painter, Washington; Leona Pooyouma, wicker basket weaver, Arizona; Marvin Pooyouma, textile weaver, Arizona; Rodney Richard, woodcarver, Maine; Michelle Ryan, quilter, Montana; Gary Snyder, environmental poet, California; Henrietta Snype, sweetgrass basketmaker, South Carolina; Walt Thies woodturner, Oregon; Nathan Jackson, totem pole carver, Alaska; Wally McRae, cowboy poet, Montana and many others.

A Forest Service centennial quilt accompanies the exhibition. This quilt was stitched by over 100 quilters in celebration of national forest history. In addition, a collection of photographs by Dale Thomas, local landscape photographer, will be showcased in the visitor center’s gallery September 16<sup>th</sup> through October 8<sup>th</sup>. Thomas’ collection features images of the natural scenic beauty found in the region including the Chequamegon-Nicolet National



Nathan Jackson, member of the Chilkoot Tlingit tribe from Alaska and recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellowship, is renowned for carving totem poles.

Photo by Joe Furgal, Smithsonian Institution

Forest. Thomas' collection is sponsored in part by the National Endowment for the Arts in conjunction with the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage. Thomas will be in the gallery September 30<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to share how he captures the scenic beauty of the natural world through the lens of his camera.

The visitor center will also host a Heritage Folklife Festival September 30<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the region's traditional arts, crafts, food and music. Regional crafters, musicians and traditional artists will be demonstrating their skills and sharing their cultural heritage from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Crafters and artisans will give hands-on instruction – public participation is encouraged! Lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for a nominal cost. For more information on this event, please call Nori Newago at (715) 685-2646.

The "Inspirations from the Forest" exhibition is sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the USDA Forest Service and has been traveling the U.S. during 2006. Audio and video clips of featured artists represented in the exhibition, in addition to a Learning Guide for younger children is available online at ([www.folklife.si.edu/explore/inspirations.html](http://www.folklife.si.edu/explore/inspirations.html)) along with a Resource Directory with information about the arts and the environment. For more information about the exhibition and other programs, events and activities at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center, please call Susan Nelson at (715) 685-9983 or check online at ([www.nglvc.org](http://www.nglvc.org)).