SHOP WISELY...TIPS FOR BUYING

- When purchasing ivory artwork from a shop or gallery, choose one with a good reputation.
- Request a written guarantee or written verification of authenticity. Authentic Alaska Native artwork may carry a state certified tag or Silver Hand symbol which features the words, "Authentic Alaska Native Art from Alaska." Items may also carry a "Made in Alaska" emblem which certifies it was made in Alaska, but not necessarily by an Alaska Native.
- Get a receipt that includes all the vital information about your purchase, including price, materials, maker, and maker's tribal village.
- Familiarize yourself with the characteristics of walrus, mastodon, and mammoth ivory, as well as indicators of a well-made piece.
- Realize that authentic Alaska Native artwork may be expensive. If the price seems too good to be true, make sure to ask more questions about the item and its maker.

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ALASKA NATIVE ARTISTS

- Alaska Silver Hand Artists www.education.alaska.gov/aksca/native.html
- IACB Source Directory www.doi.gov/iacb/source-directory

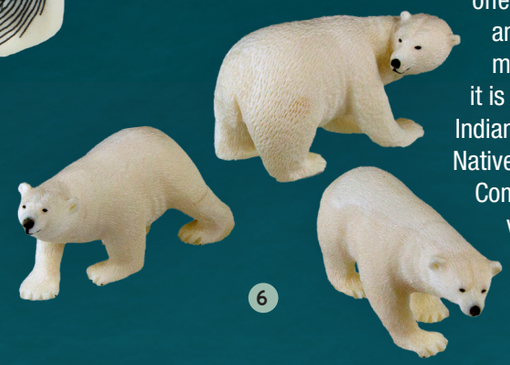
CO-MANAGEMENT OF WALRUS RESOURCES

The **Eskimo Walrus Commission** (EWC) was established in 1978 by Kawerak, Inc., an Alaska Native regional non-profit corporation, to represent 19 remote Alaska Native coastal communities. EWC oversees walrus co-management issues essential to these communities' food sources, which also provide the traditional materials, ivory and bone, used for artwork in support of their culture and economies. Collaborating with other organizations, particularly the FWS, EWC encourages subsistence hunters' participation in conserving and managing walrus stocks. To contact the EWC, please call 1-877-277-4392.

Take Home a Treasure from Alaska - Buy Authentic Alaska Native Art

INDIAN ARTS AND CRAFTS ACT

The U.S. Department of the Interior's Indian Arts and Crafts Board and the FWS's Office of Law Enforcement jointly enforce the Indian Arts and Crafts Act (Act), P.L. 101-644, a truth in marketing law, which carries criminal and civil penalties. Under the Act, it is illegal to offer or display for sale, or sell, any art or craft product in a manner that falsely suggests it is Alaska Native or American Indian produced or an Alaska Native or American Indian product. Complaints of potential Act violations can be submitted online, www.doi.gov/iacb/act, or by calling 1-888-ART-FAKE (toll free).



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"Alaska Native artists who carve Pacific walrus ivory harvested during subsistence hunting are key to our communities' economic development, keep our traditions alive and strong, and pass down our rich heritage from one generation to the next. Our communities protect the walrus on which our continued subsistence depends." Alice Bioff, Kawerak, Inc.

ESKIMO WALRUS COMMISSION

Eskimo Walrus Commission
"To protect the pacific walrus population."

Kawerak, Inc.
P.O. Box 948
Nome, AK 99762
1-907-443-4380 or 1-877-277-4392
1-907-443-4484 (fax)
www.kawerak.org/ewc.html
ewc@kawerak.org

INDIAN ARTS AND CRAFTS BOARD

U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW, MS 2528-MIB
Washington, D.C. 20240
1-888-278-3253
1-202-208-5196 (fax)
www.doi.gov/iacb
iacb@ios.doi.gov

U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

U.S. Department of the Interior
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22041
1-703-358-2220
1-703-358-1930 (fax)
www.fws.gov
www.fws.gov/duspit/contactus.htm

ALASKA STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

ALASKA STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

161 Klevin Street, Suite 102
Anchorage, AK 99508-1506
1-888-278-7424
1-907-269-6601 (fax)
www.education.alaska.gov/aksca
aksca.info@alaska.gov

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ALASKA NATIVE IVORY

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR • INDIAN ARTS AND CRAFTS BOARD
in collaboration with Alaska State Council on the Arts

"In accordance with our cultural value of no waste, we've made our boats, tools, clothing, spiritual items, and artwork from the inedible parts of the gift of the walrus. They are inextricably a part of our ancient and sustainable relationship with the land and sea, and provide critical food and an important economic resource for hunters and artists in rural Alaska." Susie Silook, St. Lawrence Island Yupik artist.

ALASKA NATIVE ARTISTS are well known for their distinctive artwork. Walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory are often used by Alaska Natives to create a wide range of carvings and other artworks. For example, carvings of animals, hunters, and ceremonial masks, as well as other contemporary and traditional artwork, incorporate ivory to enhance their beauty and value.

Alaska Native ivory art has a universal appeal, but it is important to be an educated consumer.

WALRUS IVORY

Pacific walruses are protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.)* and may only be harvested by coastal dwelling Alaska Natives. Walrus ivory offered for sale that was harvested after 1972 may only be carved by Alaska Natives. Once carved and sold, anyone may resell Alaska Native art and craftwork made of walrus ivory.

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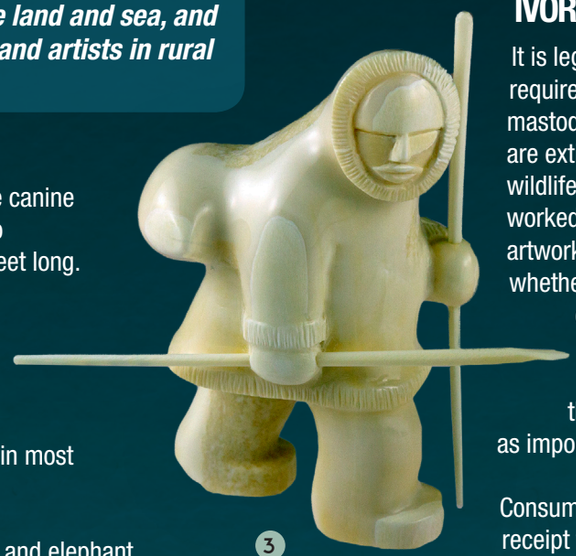
IVORY FACTS

- Walrus tusks are large canine teeth that can grow to approximately three feet long.
- Although ivory from different species is similar in appearance, it can be properly identified in most situations.
- Mammoth, mastodon, and elephant ivories are most similar. It is easy, however, to distinguish walrus ivory as outlined at www.fws.gov/lab/ivory.php.
- Walrus ivory is normally white, but may darken through age or exposure to environmental factors.
- The color of mammoth and mastodon ivory may range from creamy white to mottled dark brown, depending on the mineral content of the surrounding soil deposit.
- Walrus harvests are crucial to coastal communities which rely heavily on subsistence hunting for food, clothing, and cultural traditions, as well as on ivory for the production and sale of artwork for key supplemental income.



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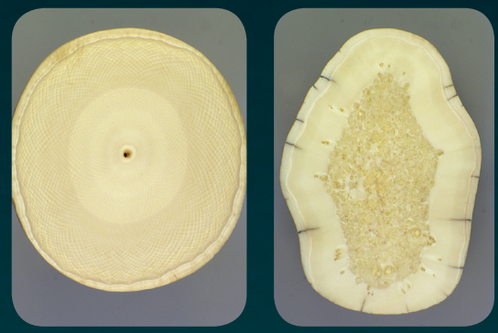
* www.fws.gov/international/pdf/legislation-marine-mammal-protection-act.pdf

TRANSPORTING ALASKA NATIVE IVORY ART & CRAFTWORK

It is legal, and no documentation is required, to export mammoth and mastodon ivory because these species are extinct and not protected by federal wildlife law. Walrus ivory that has been worked into authentic Alaska Native artwork may be exported. To determine whether a U.S. Fish and Wildlife (FWS) export permit is required to do so, you may call the FWS at 907-271-6198. Check with the country you wish to import to, as import permits may also be required.

Consumers are advised to keep the receipt for the item(s) purchased with the name and address of the vendor clearly indicating the item was purchased in the United States (U.S.). The receipt will be necessary if you need to apply for an export permit or it can be used in place of a permit if you are hand carrying your authentic Alaska Native ivory artwork to Canada, Macau, Japan, or Hong Kong. Other foreign countries may require import permits. The purchase receipt from a U.S. vendor is also required for U.S. citizens traveling through Canada before re-entering the U.S., since walrus ivory purchased in Canada cannot be imported into the U.S. For more information regarding Alaska Native ivory artwork transportation requirements for other foreign countries, please call the FWS at 907-271-6198.



Cross sections of elephant ivory (left) and walrus ivory (right). Courtesy National Forensic Fish & Wildlife Lab.

ELEPHANT IVORY BAN

A near-total ban on commercial trade in African elephant ivory in the U.S. was implemented in July 2016 (EO 13648). Ivory from marine species, such as walrus, is regulated separately under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and is not affected by the African elephant regulations.

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CREDITS: ***Cover.*** *Susie Silook, St. Lawrence Island Yupik, "Identities," 2015, Photography by Jimmy Froehlich.* ***2.*** *Gertrude Svarny, Unangan, "The Gatherer," 1990, Collection of the Southern Plains Indian Museum (SPIM), USDOI, IACB.* ***3.*** *Justin Tiulana, King Island Inupiaq, "Hunter," 1984, Courtesy of University of Alaska Museum of the North (UAMN), UA 84-3-52AC.* ***4.*** *Lane Iyakitan, St. Lawrence Island Yupik, "Land vs. Sea," 1982, Collection of SPIM, USDOI, IACB.* ***5.*** *Teddy Mayac, Sr., King Island Inupiaq, "Loon," 1989, Courtesy of UAMN, UA 2009-019-0058.* ***6.*** *Ron Apangalook, St. Lawrence Island Yupik, "Polar Bear Mother and Cubs," 2003, Courtesy of UAMN, UA 2015-19-15AC.*