



NEWS RELEASE
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Institute of American Indian Arts
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Alaskan Contemporary Artist Reveals Secrets @ IAIA Museum

Who: Sonya Kelliher-Combs (Inupiaq/Athabascan)

What: **Unraveled Secrets**, paintings, drawings, and mixed media needlework

When: Saturday, Dec. 2 to March 4, 2007, (no opening reception)

Where: IAIA Museum (North Gallery), 108 Cathedral Place, Santa Fe

Cost: Regular Museum Admission (\$4 adults, \$2 students & seniors, 16 & under free)

One of the rising stars of the contemporary Native American art scene, Alaska resident Sonya Kelliher-Combs (Inupiaq/Athabascan), will be featured in a North Gallery exhibition of new and recent work at the IAIA Museum in downtown Santa Fe.

Titled “Unraveled Secrets”, the exhibition is comprised of a range of paintings, drawings, and mixed media needlework. More than three dozen paintings and drawings will be featured in the show, as well as a mixed media needlework installation created from more than 4,000 threaded needles.

“I’m exploring something as many ways as I feel necessary in order to capture a single idea,” says Kelliher-Combs. “The intent behind Unraveled Secrets is to explore how something changes over time, and linking that idea to the physical process of transparency, opaqueness and revelation. I don’t consider myself purely as a painter, sculptor or fiber artist, so it’s important for me to use different media to communicate my ideas.”

Kelliher-Combs, who says she sees secrets as “...something hidden, unspoken, repressed, and kept unknown,” and was recently featured in the nationally touring exhibition “Changing Hands: Art Without Reservation 2” has also been named as a 2007 Eiteljorg Museum Fellow.

(attached: Small Pink secret, acrylic polymer with beads, 2006)

The Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Cultural and Arts Development (IAIA) is a multi-tribal center of higher education dedicated to the preservations, study, creative application and contemporary expression of American Indian and Alaska Native arts and cultures. Established by Congress in 1986, the Institute is comprised of the Center for Arts and Cultural Studies (CACCS), the IAIA Museum and the Achein Center for Lifelong Education, Research & Cultural Exchange (CLE). As a federally chartered tribal college, IAIA enrolls Native American students regionally and nationally from reservation and urban communities, including graduates and transfer students from two-year tribal colleges