

# Cama'i-Hello

## Being A Man

I spend many days in my kayak. My boat is one of my most important tools. It is made especially for me using measurements from my body. With it, I travel along the coast of Kodiak hunting, fishing, visiting, and trading. Sometimes I paddle over to Aluuwiq—the Alaska Peninsula to get things we don't have on Kodiak—caribou skins for clothes, coal and ivory for jewelry, antler for tools, glassy stone for arrows. I take Kodiak slate with me. There is no slate on the Alaska Peninsula, and people there need it to make knives. I always try to bring food or materials home to my family. They depend on my travels for support.

In the village, I spend my days in the qasgiq—community house. Here, men from our village make tools, discuss politics, plan travel, and play games. My sons join me and we work together to carve tools and build boat frames. We carve many of the tools we use everyday—making harpoons, bows, fish hooks, bowls, drums, and masks for dancing. The qasgiq is also where we celebrate. I am dressed in my festival clothes.

## Shaman

Our community has a shaman, who heals people by communicating with animals, ancestors, and spirits. He is a powerful person who can see the future and control the weather. Women can also be shamans.



## First Catch

The first time I harvested a seal, my family celebrated. My parents gave the meat and hide away to demonstrate the importance of sharing and to show that I was a hunter who could support a family and our village. Then we had a feast. This marked my transition from a teenager to an adult and signaled my readiness for marriage.



# NUKALLPIAQ MAN



Puppet clothing by Susan Malutin from deer hide, glass beads, and dentalium shells.

# ALAS'KAAQ

ALASKA



## CAMA'I

Cama'i is our greeting. It's a friendly, welcoming word that means hello. Say cama'i when you meet a friend or enter a room full of people.



## QIK'RTAQ KODIAK

Our people came to Kodiak from Aluuwiq—the Alaska Peninsula to the northwest. Here, there was a chief named Atlivatu whose daughter vanished. Another chief named lakunak helped him search for her. They looked in many places for a long time. From the southern coast of the Alaska Peninsula, they sighted land across the water and called it Qik'rtaq—Island. This is where Kodiak gets its name. Atlivatu and lakunak were curious about Qik'rtaq and investigated. They found many good things and persuaded their families to settle here.

