

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Railroad sets Annual Print Sale-and-Sign Events

2022 official print and poster feature Alaska state bird

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – The Alaska Railroad (ARRC) 2022 annual poster/print goes on sale in early December. Seward artist Kwangsook Schaefermeyer created the artwork and will be available to autograph posters and prints during signing events in December. Masks will be required:

- **SEWARD: Friday, Dec. 3,** 5-7 p.m. **and Saturday, Dec. 4,** 10 a.m. to Noon during the Seward Holiday Arts and Craft Fair at the Dale Lindsey Seward Intermodal Terminal.
- **ANCHORAGE: Saturday, Dec. 11,** 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Anchorage Historic Depot (411 W. 1st Avenue)

- **FAIRBANKS: Saturday, Dec. 18,** 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Fairbanks Depot (1031 ARR Depot Road)

Entitled **Summer Breeze**, the acrylic painting depicts a scene just north of the Alaska Railroad's Seward Depot. A family of ptarmigan watch a passenger train pass by, headed south into this beloved harbor town. Mount Alice and the Kenai Mountain Range offer a stunning backdrop to the east.



2022 print / poster featuring artwork by Kwangsook Schaefermeyer

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Having seen several ptarmigan during family hikes in recent years, Schaefermeyer said she was inspired to include the Alaska state bird as a fitting addition to a painting featuring an Alaska icon, the Alaska Railroad.

Expecting her fifth child in October, the artist was further inspired to surround a male and female ptarmigan with five chicks. “Alaska summers are often a time when family comes to visit, gathering together to enjoy each other and beautiful nature,” she said. That beauty includes Alaska’s classic wildflowers — forget-me-nots, fireweed, lupine — also featured in the painting.

She said the painting also reflects her joy over being chosen to create the artwork. “I feel as though the baby I carry brings another blessing — a chance to work with the railroad. This is my honor,” she said. The happy news took her mind off some of COVID-19’s grim impacts. Three years ago, this self-taught artist established a downtown art shop and gallery, Dreaming Bear Studio — <https://www.dreamingbearstudio.com/>. Like so many businesses that rely on tourism, her gallery was hit hard by the pandemic. Yet, she remains grateful to customers who have come back to support her during this difficult time.



Schaefermeyer originally hails from South Korea, where she met her husband Karl. In 2006, Karl brought Kwangsook to Alaska to settle in his hometown of Seward.

The railroad’s annual art print program began 43 years ago, when ARRC commissioned renowned artist John Van Zyle to produce an official painting. Since that 1979 beginning, the annual tradition (except in 1984, when no painting was released) has evolved into a popular collector’s item. More information about the Alaska Railroad’s annual art print program, including history and images of prints from the recent past, are available on www.AlaskaRailroad.com/Corporate > Click IN THE COMMUNITY > then Annual Print Contest.

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The ARRC is an Equal Opportunity Corporation. If you need special assistance (including language) in order to participate in any ARRC service, program, or activity, please contact the Alaska Railroad Corporation; P.O. Box 107500; Anchorage, AK 99510; Attention: Legal Department, zappasj@akrr.com, (907) 265-2461; via Alaska Relay Service for hearing impaired - dial 7 11 anywhere inside Alaska, OR dial toll-free from anywhere outside the state 1-800-770-8255 (voice); 1-800 770-8973 (TTY). Upon request, printed materials can be made available in alternate formats.