

DATE: April 3, 2019 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: Stephenie Wheeler, 265-2671, cell 382-3327

Railroad chooses 2020 and 2021 art print artists

Two Anchorage artists repeat previous print/poster art assignments

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – The Alaska Railroad (ARRC) chose two Anchorage artists to create artwork as the basis for the next two official Alaska Railroad commemorative art prints and posters. Both artists have won the Alaska Railroad Art Contest in prior years.

Jason Vukovich, 2020 ARRC Art Print Artist

Jason Vukovich will create art for the official 2020 print/poster. In 2015, he created art featuring a winter scene and northern lights for the 2016 print / poster. For the 2020 print, Vukovich proposes a scene entitled "Journeys," depicting returning salmon in river rapids and a train crossing a steel bridge overhead."



"I had a great experience working with the Alaska Railroad on the 2016 print and loved the enthusiastic response Alaskans and fans of Alaska and fans of the railroad gave my work," said Vukovich. "I'm grateful to be selected again and can't wait to start on the 2020 print!"

A native of Illinois, Jason Vukovich is an accomplished artist. He earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in sculpture from the University of Illinois. Soon after graduation, Vukovich joined the U.S. Army, which transferred him out of the flatlands and into mountain territory, beginning with his first station at Fort Lewis, WA, followed by tours of duty in Georgia, Europe, Egypt / Middle East, Afghanistan and Central Asia. A decorated infantry officer, he spent 6 years on active duty, followed by 7 years in the Army Reserve. After leaving the military in 2013, Vukovich moved to Alaska. He is a Control System Designer for Doyon Anvil in downtown Anchorage. His spare time is consumed with family and creating art, which has been shown across the U.S. and in British Columbia. Primarily a watercolor painter, he also works in acrylics, welded steel, and draws. For more information, follow JasonVukovichArt on Facebook.

Debbie Dubac, 2021 ARRC Art Print Artist

Debbie Dubac will create art for the railroad's official 2021 print / poster. In 2001, Dubac created art featuring prominent wildflowers and a freight train for the 2002 print / poster. For the 2021 print, Dubac proposes a scene entitled "Soaring Alaska," depicting a locomotive with an eagle prominently flying overhead.

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Dubac is an award-winning artist with an extensive background in fine art and graphic design, including a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Georgia in Athens. Dubac moved to Alaska in 1990, when she went to work for the *Anchorage Times* as an art director. Two years later, she established Dubac Designs where she has served as owner and art director ever since. Dubac Designs offers art, illustration and graphic design services over a range of mediums and platforms. She seeks opportunities to pursue a passion for Alaska's natural beauty, including epic scenery, wild animals, flowers and other aspects of nature. For More information about Dubac, visit her website at <u>Dubac.net</u>.

Art Print Program

Renowned artist John Van Zyle produced the first official Alaska Railroad art print painting in 1979. Since then, the annual tradition (except in 1984, when no art print was released) has evolved into a popular collector's item for Alaska Railroad and Alaskan art fans alike.

More information about the Alaska Railroad's annual art print program, including history and images of past years' prints, are available on the Alaska Railroad web site – <u>www.AlaskaRailroad.com/Corporate</u> - Click on <u>IN THE COMMUNITY</u>, then Annual Print Contest.

Each year, the railroad releases its newest art print for sale by early November. The artist attends sale-andsigning events in Anchorage and Fairbanks prior to the holidays.

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The ARRC is an Equal Opportunity Corporation. People needing special assistance (including language) to participate in any ARRC service, program, or activity should contact the Alaska Railroad Corporation; P.O. Box 107500; Anchorage, AK 99510; Attention: Legal Department, <u>zappasj@akrr.com</u>, (907) 265-2461; via Alaska Relay Service for hearing impaired – dial 7 11 from 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 format.