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photos courtesy of Beata Hejnowicz

From left, Arctic College student Ilisapee Itulu *looks on as professional photographer Paul Ambtman teaches her and students Silas Qulaut, Patrick Aula, Joe Macpa, Tapaungai Niviaqsi, and Kovianatuliaq Suvega proper techniques for photographing jewelry.*

Students learn art of photography

Jewelers learn how to photograph their work for showcase

by Adrian Lysenko
Northern News Services
Iqaluit

STUDENTS IN Arctic College's jewelry program learned how to take high quality photos of their work earlier in the month.

Beata Hejnowicz, senior instructor of the fine arts and crafts program at Nunavut Arctic College, invited Paul Ambtman, a Toronto-based photographer with over 10 years experience photographing jewelry, to give tips to her students.

From April 4 to April 17, Ambtman taught students some of his trade secrets.

"I'm always (looking) for creative ways just to enhance and broaden the experience for my students and one of the things that we want to, and need to, focus on more is business and communications," said Hejnowicz.

"When the students finish the program they need know everything they need to know in order to promote themselves, produce work and have the ability to sell it."

Because of its shiny and reflective surface, jewelry isn't the easiest thing to photograph.

"If you get a good shot you usually also have the reflection of the camera and the person who's taking the picture within in the piece so it is really difficult to do," she said.

Equipment education

For two weeks Ambtman taught 10 students in both the first and second year of the program how to use the equipment, set up the jewelry, shoot it, and then upload their pictures onto the computer.

"They totally loved it, it was just fantastic he was very positive and a very sharing person," said Hejnowicz. "Although he never really had taught before, he was just a natural at it and really communicated well with the students."

The instructor said that one benefit to blowing up the pictures onto the computer screen was students were able to see if there were any faults in their jewelry.

"The camera and the computer is an excellent, positive critic of their work. It even enhanced their knowledge to know what they need to know to do in the metal shop and improving their work," said Hejnowicz.

"It was even a tool for me because when I sit down with my students and show them where they need to improve – you can be objective when it's coming from an instructor, but the camera does not lie."

Deborah Qitsualik, a first year student of the program agreed.

"It was embarrassing how many mistakes I had but I am in my first year and I'm learning how to make all these things," said Qitsualik. "Instead of lowering my confidence it heightened it and gave me more confidence because then I know that what I produce is as perfect as I can make it."

The course also helped teach students how to keep records of their work in a portfolio by always having a digital copy of it.

"I'm looking forward to seeing how I can use my photo-taking abilities and take it to other fields where I'm good at like I'm sewing or I'm hunting or something outdoors," said Qitsualik. " I'm very proud to take the camera course because I'm able to display my culture and my traditions through my medium of jewellery and whatever it is I'm doing or learning and simultaneously record it."

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Tapaungai Niviaqsi created this piece of jewelry, *titled Seal with Stone Tap, and then photographed it using techniques she learned in an Arctic College photography workshop.*

Play gets positive reviews

Night, from page 16

"It is a dark but very beautiful play," said Arluk. "It's in half Inuktitut and half English so it was a real challenge to work on the language, but it's so rewarding."

The play debuted at Ottawa's National Arts Centre last year afterwards the production travelled to up North.

Akoomalik said she was glad to hear the play was getting positive reviews from critics down south and said it portrays contemporary issues in the community accurately.

"I think they are based on real life events of Pond Inlet," said Akoomalik. "It's a good story line for people to see, especially for people who don't know about the North."

Akoomalik said the Tununiq Arsarniit Theatre Group are now working on a few other projects – honouring Annie Peterloosie who received a National Aboriginal Achievement award, and holding a memorial for Peterloosie's late husband Jacob.

"They've been doing this cultural performances for over 25 years and we're really proud of them," she said.

The theatre group is also applying for grants to create two new plays for 2011 and 2012.

The first play would be about positive living, based on Inuit culture, and the other would be on an Inuit legend based on a book of Inuit legends by James Houston.

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ᐊᓯᖏᓐᓂᓴ ᐱᔨᓚᓪᓂᓴ ᐱᖃᓐᓂᐅᕐᓇᖅᑐᖅᑕᖅᑐᑦ ᐅᐸᑉᓯᓚᕆᔨᖅᑕᐅᓇᖅᑐᑦ ᐊᐱᖅᓯᒪᔪᓂᒃ ᐊᑐᖅᑕᐅᓇᖅᑐᑦ.

ᑕᒪᐃ & ᓯᐸᐅᔨᐃᑦ ᐱᔨᖅᓴᐅᑎᑕᐅᓂᐊᖅᑐᑦ. ᖃᐃᐱᑦᓯ ᐄᓕᐊᓚᐊᖅᑐᑦᓂᓕᓯ ᐊᐱᖅ ᑐᑭᓯᐊᕈᑎᖅᑎᓪᓗᑲᓴᖅᑐᑦᓂᓕᓯ.

Sunday, May 1, 2011
Nova Inn Conference Room
From: 2pm to 4pm

Topics Include:
✎ Lease land in Nunavut;
✎ Making an offer;
✎ Is now the right time to buy? Sell? Re-finance?
✎ What is NDAP?
✎ Ist time buyer steps

Whether you are planning to buy or sell in the upcoming months, this seminar should provide useful information for your next real estate transaction.

This seminar will be presented by Patrick Smith, a Nunavut Lawyer who has lived and worked in Nunavut for over 10 years.

Other real estate professionals will be in attendance for your questions.

Coffee & cookies to be served. Come by for a coffee and stay for the information.

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1-888-597-9355.