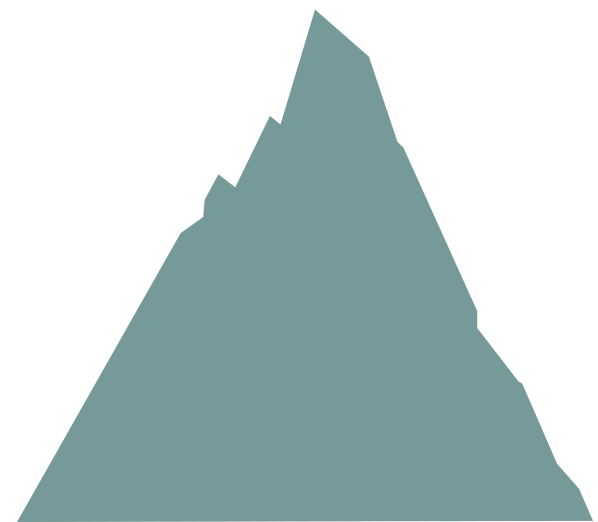


NAME

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Write or draw what belonging means to you.

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BELONGING IN THE NORTH

*What does it mean to belong in Alaska?
When did Alaska become a place people lived?
Why have artists chosen Alaska as a place to belong?*

Alaska has been called *home* for thousands of years. People first came to live in this northern place following resources. Here, they found brilliant, saturated summer skies, silent winters of deep valleys, and tall mountains. The unique environments and landscapes of this place have provided inspiration for artists and makers for as long as people have inhabited it.

This resource explores what it means to belong in Alaska through the work of artists from the 1800s to the present day. Some of the highlighted artists were born and raised in Alaska. Some of the artists have come from elsewhere to make Alaska their home. Their paintings, drawings and sculptures examine the intimate feelings of belonging—or struggling to belong—while living and creating in the North.

HOW TO EXPLORE:

Slow down and look closely. Each object has a story to tell.

Ask questions. Be curious about details.

Make this journal yours. Use the pages to draw, write, and note in your own way.

Share. Tell a friend, a family member, or mentor about your experience.

"There is nothing either sentimental or decadent about northern painting. It is as vibrant and free-flowing as life itself. Alaska has been proud of her artists. There is no place in the continent, possibly no place in the world, where people have shown such boundless enthusiasm for paintings and pride in ownership. "

*— Theodore Lambert
from *The Man Behind the Paintings**

**Where Did You Go,
TED LAMBERT?**

After dinner at a friend's house that last night, Ted Lambert shared coffee with his neighbor. The famed Alaska painter was edgy. He rolled cigarettes and smoked them. Then he read his mail, two letters from his brother Ronald in Zion, Illinois.

When Lambert finished studying them he was clearly upset. He left the home of John Meggitt about 8 p.m. As a favor, Ron and Chuck Meggitt, John's teen-age sons, hauled water up the hill, through the trees, to Lambert's house. Lambert walked slowly behind them.

"He was very distant, very moody," said Chuck Meggitt. "He was distraught."

Ron and Chuck said good night. Lambert, who was always kindly to the boys, said good night. It was gray, overcast that night, making the sky darker than it normally would be in midsummer so far north in this Bristol Bay area. Chuck Meggitt remembers that detail.

It was July 27, 1960, the last Sunday in July. And it may have been the last time anyone saw Ted Lambert ever again. Sometime that night or the next day, the 54-year-old painter vanished. It was a mysterious end for one of Alaska's most respected artists, the man Sydney Laurence predicted "may be recognized as Alaska's greatest — maybe North America's — if nothing happens to him."

But something did happen to Lambert. Exactly what is a riddle that remains unsolved 33 years later.

The demise of Ted Lambert, friends contend, began with the bitter 1946 divorce from his wife Lovetta and the loss of custody of his baby daughter Pat. After that, he turned into a man angry at the world, someone who eventually estranged himself from most human contact and gradually descended into madness. Ultimately, the artist whose legacy is a collection of museum-quality paintings depicting a

bygone Alaska era, couldn't paint to his high standards anymore, either.

During his life, Lambert's career was under-published outside of art circles, little of substance was written about him. But Lambert left behind more than pictures. A rarely read 1,848-page handwritten manuscript about his early life has reposited in the University of Alaska Fairbanks Archives for the last 28 years. That book and the indelible impressions formed by aging friends tell much about the man.

More than 30 years after Lambert's disappearance, those who knew him shake their heads over his sad deterioration and speculate about what happened to him. They mourn not only for a lost talent, but for a lost friend.

Did he simply walk away into the wilderness and lie down to die somewhere? Did he shoot himself? Was he murdered? Or was he whisked away clandestinely by small plane to an unknown destination?

Continued on Page 8

Photo courtesy of Pat Lambert

Alaska artist Ted Lambert prior to a trip down the Kuskokwim River to Bethel.

Thirty-three years ago this month, one of Alaska's greatest painters disappeared. Some believe he killed himself in the wilderness. Some believe he's still alive.

By LEW FREEDMAN

We Alaskans / July 25, 1993

THEODORE LAMBERT
(1905 - UNKNOWN)

Where do you feel you belong?



Sketch of painting "Tranquility," by Theodore Lambert, 1939.

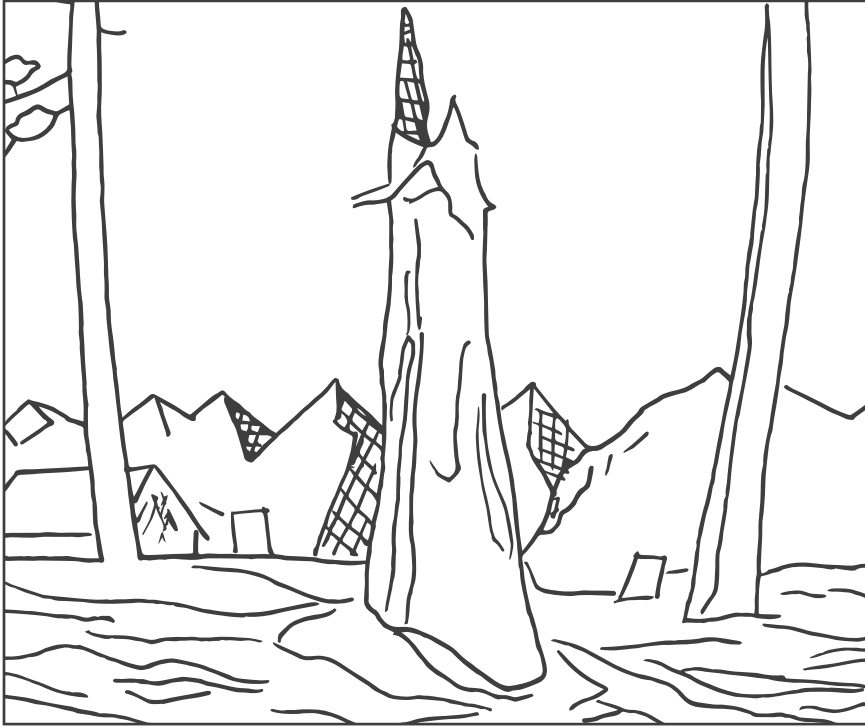
Theodore Lambert was born, raised and trained as an artist in Chicago. He moved to Alaska in 1925. After working as a miner, dog musher and mail carrier, Lambert began to study under Eustace Ziegler. The two traveled throughout Alaska—painting landscape and images of life in the North. In 1960, Lambert disappeared from his remote cabin in Bristol Bay. He left behind paintings and a 250,000-word memoir. His artwork and words reflect his sense of belonging in Alaska, his adopted home.



ROCKWELL KENT
(1882-1971)

"... I believe the ultimate high occurs when you feel
you're walking in your own landscape."

- Alvin Amason

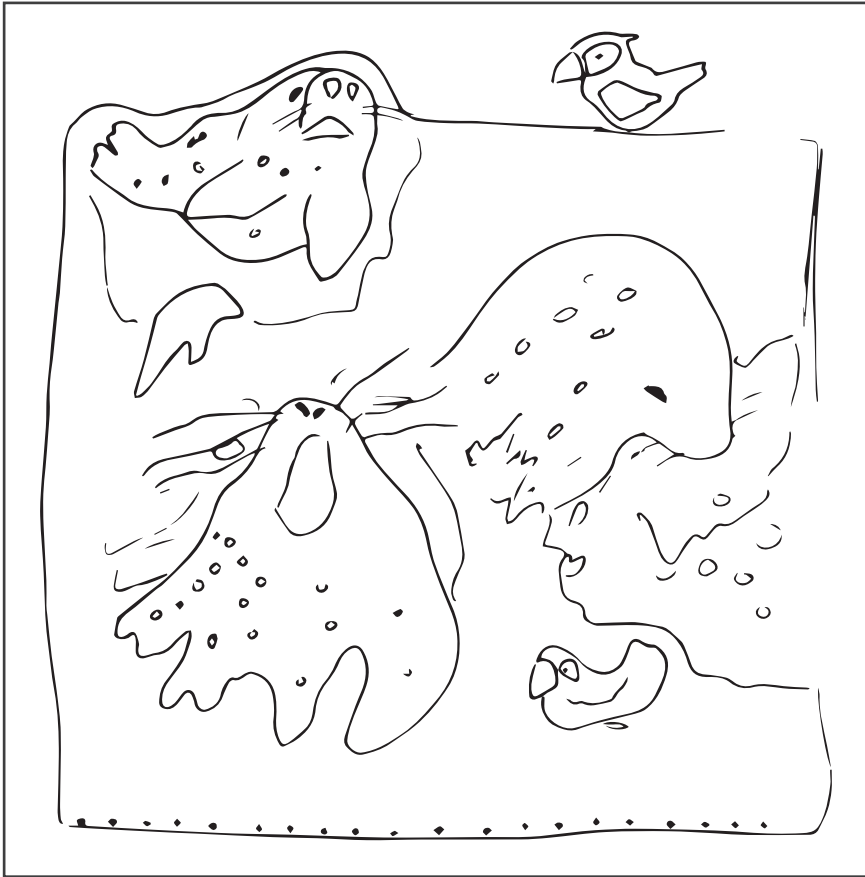


Sketch of painting "Alaska Winter, 1919 (Fox Island, Alaska)," by Rockwell Kent.

Rockwell Kent was a painter, printmaker, engraver and illustrator. He explored many different careers, working as an artist, author, farmer, sailor, carpenter and fisherman. Born and raised in New York state, Kent found his calling as an artist at an early age and went on to pursue formal training. In 1918, Kent moved to Alaska for seven months. He lived in relative seclusion on Alaska's Fox Island with his nine-year-old son. Though his time living in Alaska was brief, it significantly impacted him personally and professionally. Kent wrote a book about this time in the North called, *Wilderness: A Journal of Quiet Adventure in Alaska*, which captures the sense of home and place Kent found in the North. Some of Kent's most well-known works depict images of his time in Alaska.

ALVIN AMASON

(B. 1948)



Sketch of painting "Agripina Day, From Two Rainbows" by Alvin Amason, 1976.

Alvin Amason is a Sugpiaq painter and sculptor living and working in Alaska. As a young person, he decided to pursue a career as an artist. Amason left Alaska for his artistic training, studying in Washington and Arizona. He then returned in the 1980s to his home state where he continues to live, teach, and create work. Amason combines painting and sculptural techniques, often attaching three dimensional elements to canvas. Amason's work draws upon his Sugpiaq culture and experiences as a child. Many pieces include representations of Alaska's wildlife, reflecting an understanding of animals that he gained while hunting with his grandfather on Kodiak Island.

"I crave snow-topped mountains, dreary wastes, and the cruel Northern Sea with its far horizons at the edge of the world where infinite space begins. Here skies are clearer and deeper and, for the greater wonders they reveal, a thousand times more eloquent of the eternal mystery than those of softer lands."

- Rockwell Kent

Kent, known for his landscape paintings, writes about what draws him to Alaska. Write or draw the people, places, objects, or experiences of Alaska that are meaningful to you.

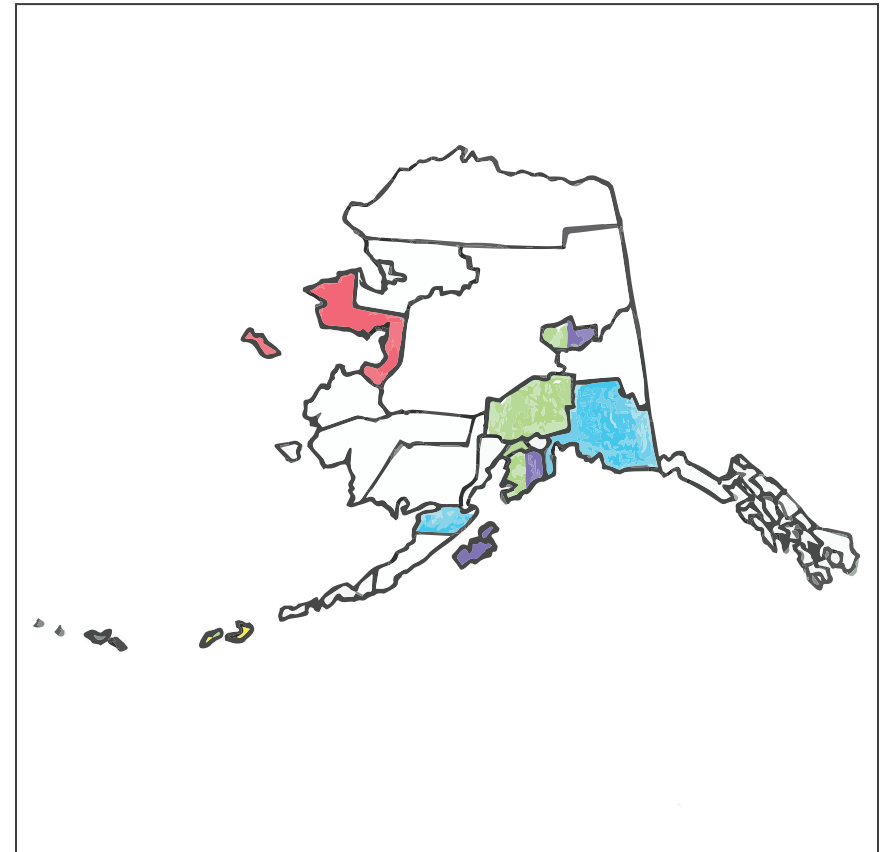
FLORENCE NAPAAQ MALEWOTKUK
(1905-1971)



Sketch of drawing "Untitled - Seal Hunters Return," by Florence Malewotkuk, 1970.

Florence Malewotkuk was a Saint Lawrence Island Yup'ik painter and illustrator. Malewotkuk was born on Saint Lawrence Island, in the village of Gambell. She began drawing as a young child, using any supplies available, and later pursued an artistic career as an adult. As an Alaska Native artist, Malewotkuk gained recognition in a time when most artists were male and of European descent. Using paint and ink on paper, canvas, or skin, she created depictions of everyday life in her village. Malewotkuk's work reflects her experience of the people, animals, landscapes and activities of Alaska, where she lived throughout her life.

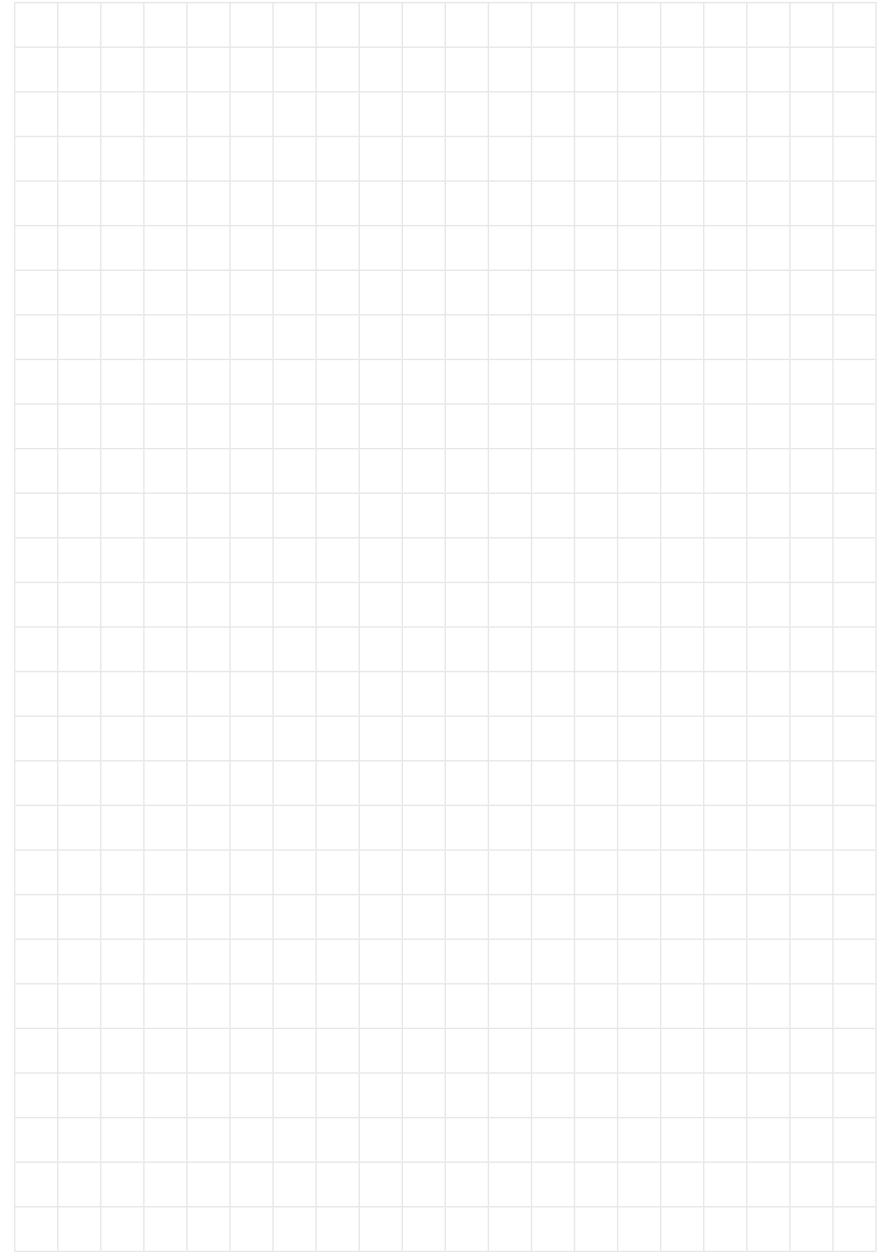
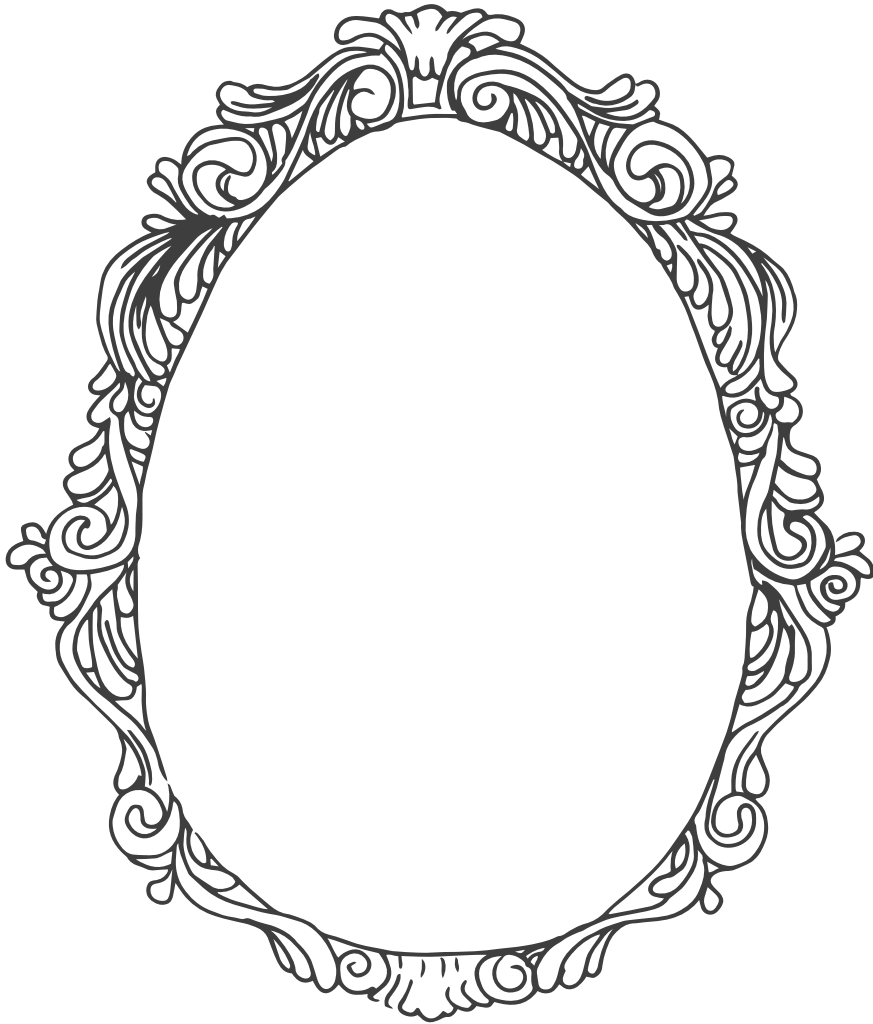
*This map shows where the artists of this book have called home.
Mark places in Alaska where you have lived.*



LEGEND

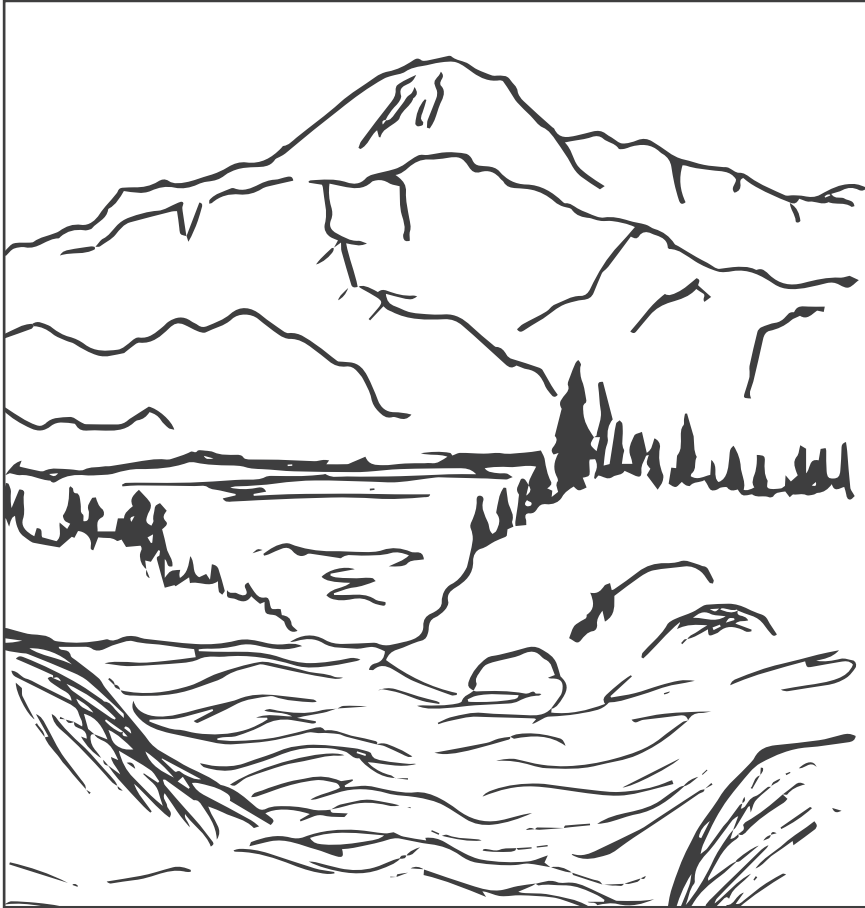
-  Florence Malewotkuk
-  Rockwell Kent
-  Sydney Laurence
-  Alvin Amason
-  Theodore Lambert

Imagine yourself in a place you call home.



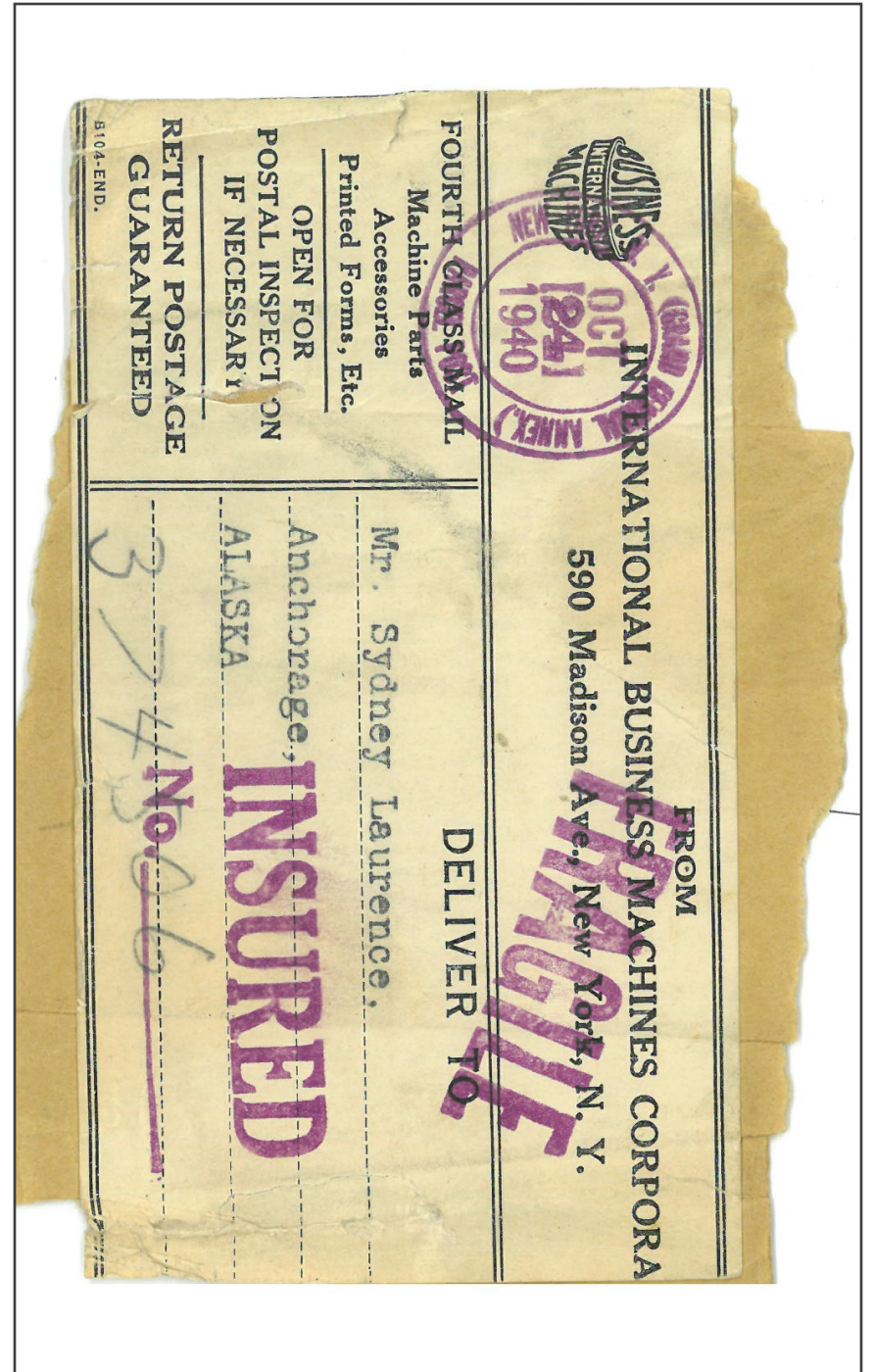
Malewotkuk followed her passion for making and charted her own path as an artist. What are you passionate about? What path do you hope to chart for yourself? Create a map that shows where you are now and imagines where you hope to go.

SYDNEY LAURENCE
(1865-1940)



Sketch of painting "Mount McKinley, Rose Wash" by Sydney Laurence, 1929.

Sydney Laurence was a painter who lived a life of adventure. In 1903, Laurence moved to Alaska, leaving his wife and two sons behind in England. For the next 37 years, Laurence sketched and painted the mysterious and overwhelming majesty of Alaskan scenery. Laurence closely observed the landscape of Alaska, making many sketches in the field and returning to his studio to paint. His romantic paintings of the North gained attention and acclaim, and established him as a renowned Alaskan painter.



Postage stamp delivered to Sydney Laurence in October, 1940.