



Steve Avery photo

Cami Thompson displays a painting, textiles, and shirt with a Northwestern Native motif. The Colorado artist will be in town this month to conduct workshops in these media.

Colorado artist shares techniques

By **STEVE AVERY**
Mirror Writer

Aspen-Kodiak artistic pollination is in the summer wind, due to the efforts of Colorado resident Cami Thompson.

The versatile artist-artisan spent seven weeks in Kodiak last summer and grew to love the people, island and ocean. She is back this month to share more of her skills.

Thompson hails from Carbondale, located in the Roaring Fork Valley in the Rockies, which includes Glenwood Springs in the north and Aspen in the south.

The artist worked hard to return to Kodiak. "Lots of help and support from here and home helped me to realize this dream," she said.

Thompson is noted in the field of "art to wear" and textile design after 12 years in the clothing and home furnishing business. Her figure-enhancing designs were marketed internationally.

Currently, Thompson teaches for the Aspen Art Museum, and conducts private lessons.

Her oil paintings are collected by many private and corporate collectors. Thompson has been a committed painter since 1970,

following a move to Colorado. Last year in Kodiak, she turned out a prodigious 40 works.

Years of intense work resulted in unique techniques Thompson will share with Kodiak artists, in workshops offered through Northern Exposure Gallery. They will be held at Kodiak College and the Nemetz Gazebo.

Ideas will not be in short supply.

"The Kodiak environment boasts a plethora of subject matter—Native images, wildlife, botany—everything to do with the sea," said Thompson.

Her classes will call forth each student's creativity by means of Thompson's techniques. Some are original, to be shared for the first time in her textile workshops.

In turn, she said, they convey to the artist a sense of wellness.

Textile classes are designed to help each person create his or her own lasting product, she said.

Thompson is noted in Colorado art circles for her use of colors—how to mix and use the purist and keep them clear.

In her oil painting classes, Thompson intends to help local artists "capture the light on

Kodiak," with the accent on soft impressionism, a style suited to rain, mist and fog.

Thompson avoids toxic chemicals like turpentine or paint thinner—she discovered vegetable oil works just as well to clean brushes.

Following her month-long stay, a show of the artist's and students' work will be held at Northern Exposure, Friday and Saturday, July 26 and 27.

Thompson's longterm dream is to promote an exchange between Kodiak and Aspen area artists for cross-pollination of ideas. Writers, painters, photographers, sculptors, artisans and practitioners of wellness arts from both areas could visit, show and teach, she suggested.

"As our respective areas evolve toward tourism, it has been my project to help bring out the best in local talent," said Thompson, who believes art-oriented visitors to places like Aspen and Kodiak prefer to purchase local creations.

Thompson will be present at the gallery tomorrow evening from 5 to 7 p.m., to meet Kodiak art lovers and share the garden. For more information, call 486-4956.