

THE ALASKA RAILROAD



GOLDSTAR SERVICE

THE ART OF GOLDSTAR

The Alaska Railroad commissioned artist Ayse Gilbert to design and paint 16 large reverse glass paintings for the interiors of the Alaska Railroad's two new luxury double-deck railcars.

The panels depict dwarf dogwood, brilliant sky, blue gentians and northern lights to strike a visual kaleidoscope that unfolds along the miles of track.

The final process for each piece is the gilding; 22-karat German gold and palladium leaf are carefully applied to the glass areas left open. Then, the final piece is turned over, and the final painting can be seen.

Cathy Kerr, of Spiral Design in Anchorage, designed the elegant railcar interiors. Using a palette of strong, organic colors and luminescent glass tiles, Cathy's concept has recreated the luxury of classic railcars from the past.

and glass beads. Each piece adds a quiet elegance that complements the railcar's interior.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Ayse Gilbert lives and works in Anchorage, Alaska. Originally from Carmel, California, she and her husband Charles came to Alaska looking for adventure. Ayse has worked as a cartographer, illustrator, graphic designer, and an interpretive designer. Ayse started reverse glass painting over 20 years ago. She is also a plein-air (open-air) painter.

Ron Apangalook is from Gambell, on St. Lawrence Island. He is Siberian Yupik and part Tlingit, and now lives in Wasilla about 40 miles north of Anchorage.

Ron, who is self taught, began his life as an artist about fifteen years ago while attending the University of Alaska Anchorage. He said he tries to create pieces that represent his Siberian side, but also capture his other ancestry.

The panels are reverse painted on glass. The unusual medium draws together tight illustrations with brilliant color and luminous effects. Each panel starts out as a very detailed illustration, or underdrawing. The drawing is a mirror image of the final piece.

The underdrawing is placed under 3/8" thick plate glass panels. All the finest detailing is painted first; after which, many layers of mid-ground and background color are applied. Ayse uses a combination of acrylic paints, binders, metal and pearl powders, and enamels.

While the Greatland Panels take the main stage on the new railcars, the Railroad honors Alaska's indigenous people with a display of artwork by Ron Apangalook. Tucked into a display at the stairs to the second deck are bone carvings embellished with ivory inlay. One car features a sculpture called *Northern Lights*, made from dark whalebone with faces in ivory inlay. The other car displays a sculpture called *Sustenance*, made from whalebone with ivory inlay

