

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Layers of Memory and Myth: Wayne Boucher's The Red Pony and Friends

ANNAPOLIS ROYAL, Nova Scotia (May 9, 2025) – ARTSPLACE Gallery and King's Theatre Annapolis Royal are pleased to present *The Red Pony and Friends*, a two-part exhibition of paintings by Wayne Boucher. Larger-scale works from the series were on view at King's Theatre from April 8 to May 6. Smaller paintings will be featured in *Friends*, showing in the MYM Gallery at ARTSPLACE from May 31 to July 19.

The origin of Boucher's use of expressionistic animals dates back to 1986 with *The Deity Series*—a body of work inspired by encounters with a derelict house and its ferociously barking dogs. This early exploration evolved into *The Nine Lives of Pepper Boucher*, a homage to a resilient family cat. A visit to the Metropolitan Toronto Zoo around the same time introduced a new visual vocabulary; Boucher began incorporating cut-out images of zoo animals into abstracted, dynamic compositions.

The first appearance of the red pony emerged in 1988. Its symbolic presence has recurred ever since, though its meaning remains intentionally elusive. While it may have been prompted by John Steinbeck's novella *The Red Pony*, Boucher notes that the audiobook, read by the late Frank Muller, deeply influenced his recent work.

Wayne Boucher is the recipient of the 2006 Portia White Award for excellence and innovation in the arts. He became a member of the Royal Canadian Academy in 2002. His notable achievements include the Grand-Pré National Historic Site mural *Réveil*, selection for Canada House carpet designs in London, UK, and the publication *Beyond the Surface: The Art of Wayne Boucher* (2021). His work is also the subject of the short documentary *Drowning in Colour* (2012), directed by Alan Collins.

Wayne Boucher's "Friends" opening reception Sat. May 31, 2025, 12-2 p.m. Light refreshments served, all welcome. Exhibition continues through July 19.

ARTSPLACE is a public Art Gallery that is operated by the Annapolis Region Community Arts Council, a registered charitable, community organization dedicated to encouraging and promoting the arts. Supported through the Province of Nova Scotia and the Canada Council for the Arts.

ARTSPLACE Gallery is located at 396 St. George Street in Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia

For more information please contact:

admin@arcac.ca

(902) 532-7069

www.arcac.ca

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Contact admin@arcac.ca to request images.



Wayne Boucher
The Red Pony and Friends
May 31 / July 19, 2025

ARTSPPLACE 396 St. George St. Annapolis Royal, NS - 902.532.7069



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