

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Stories of the Game: Honouring Mi'kmaw Contributions Through the Art of Lorne A. Julien

ANNAPOLIS ROYAL, Nova Scotia (August 12, 2025) – ARTSPLACE Gallery is pleased to present "A Mi'kmaw Family Story," an exhibition by renowned contemporary Mi'kmaw artist Lorne A. Julien. A proud member of Millbrook First Nation in Nova Scotia, Julien shares a deeply personal tribute to his grandfather and explores the important role the Mi'kmaq played in the early development of hockey.

This exhibition features a blend of historical photographs and original paintings that trace Julien's artistic and cultural journey. His work draws inspiration from both personal history and collective memory, including his 2023 commission to paint hockey sticks for the World Junior Hockey Championships in Halifax and Moncton.

"A Mi'kmaw Family Story' is an invitation to reflect on legacy, healing, and the enduring strength of Mi'kmaw culture," says Ted Lind, ARTSPLACE Program Committee Member.

Julien, whose Mi'kmaw name means "Warrior on the Hill," is a self-taught artist who began drawing as a child. He is known for bold, expressive acrylic paintings that often emerge from visions and dreams. Julien believes that simplicity is beautiful and sees his art as a form of colour therapy. "Bright, vivid colours can lift people's spirits," he says.

Beyond his studio practice, Julien creates murals in schools, public buildings, and community spaces throughout the province. His murals in Kentville, Bible Hill, Halifax, and Annapolis Royal aim to foster respectful, inclusive environments that honour Indigenous cultures. He sees public art as a quiet but powerful act of reconciliation.

Lorne Julien's "A Mi'kmaw Family Story" opens August 30, 2025. Opening reception Sat. September. 6, 2025, 12-2 p.m. Light refreshments served, all welcome. Exhibition continues through September 27

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

<https://arcac.ca/>

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