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## **Honest Animals: A Playful Take on Canadian Perspectives**

ANNAPOLIS ROYAL, Nova Scotia (March 12, 2025) – A lively and witty collection of illustrated animal caricatures arrives at ARTSPLACE Gallery with *Honest Animals*, an exhibition by James C. E. Lightle and Jaime Lee Lightle. Showcasing over fifty works from their celebrated book, *Honest Animals Talk: A Cheeky Commentary for a Post-Pandemic World*, this display offers an imaginative and entertaining lens on Canadian culture.

Inspired by the varied perspectives that emerged during the pandemic, the artists infused their illustrations with distinct personalities, giving each animal a voice through playful monologues.

"What began as an online blog quickly resonated with readers who enjoyed the humour and authenticity of these characters," shares Jaime Lee Lightle.

Encouraged by the enthusiastic response, the duo compiled their works into a book, creating a compelling and lighthearted snapshot of Canadian life.

"The exhibition will feature twenty framed original pen and watercolour pieces alongside thirty unframed matted originals," notes Sophie Paskins, ARTSPLACE Gallery Director.

Visitors will have the opportunity to engage with these charming creatures, browse the book, and purchase a copy to take home.

Experience this delightful and thought-provoking exhibition, where *Honest Animals* bring fresh perspectives to familiar narratives.

*"Honest Animals" opening reception Sat. April 5, 2025, 12-2 p.m. Light refreshments served, all welcome. Exhibition continues through May 24, 2025.*

*James C. E. Lightle, a retired Canadian Armed Forces Corporal, turned to art as a means of healing after sustaining injuries in Afghanistan. Now based in Round Hill, Nova Scotia, he is a self-published author and visual artist committed to storytelling through his work.*

*Jaime Lee Lightle, an artist, author, and Registered Art Therapist, channels her creativity into community-based projects in the Annapolis area, blending art with therapeutic engagement.*

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

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