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Leslie McFarlane Finds the Language in Fibre

ANNAPOLIS ROYAL, Nova Scotia (June 29, 2026) – ARTSPLACE Gallery presents “Whispers of Wool: A Textural Language”, a solo exhibition of wet felted works by Nova Scotia fibre artist Leslie McFarlane, on view from August 1 to September 5, 2026, at ARTSPLACE Gallery in Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia. The exhibition brings together two- and three-dimensional works: framed and unframed wall pieces, sculptural forms, and vessels in a sustained exploration of texture, imperfection, and the quiet drama of material in transformation.

Texture, in these pieces, is working like the brushstroke. Wool holds memory in its fibres, and responds to touch, water, and time. The pieces are not landscapes, yet they carry the feeling of land, tide, and weather—stillness with depth in them and slow change made visible.

Wet felting is a process both physical and slow. Layers of wool and silk are built up by hand and agitated with water and pressure until the fibres lock together and take shape. McFarlane allows form to emerge rather than imposing it, treating the unplanned moment, a shift in texture, an edge that resists the expected line, as material equal in value to deliberate intention. The resulting surfaces carry what she calls a quiet honesty, the evidence of a process that cannot be entirely controlled.

“Wool resists complete control,” McFarlane says. “Fibres shift, surfaces ripple, and unexpected forms emerge, echoing the unpredictability of becoming itself. I invite viewers to pause with the quiet beauty of irregular edges, layered surfaces, and organic forms, where intention and unpredictability exist in balance.”

“By bringing the material into the gallery, McFarlane asks viewers to encounter surface, softness, and presence in ways that conventional painting and sculpture do not invite. The works reward close looking — details emerge with proximity, and the sensory dimension of the pieces asks the body as much as the eye to engage,” notes Gallery director Sophie Paskins.

Board member Ted Lind sees the exhibition as a meaningful contribution to the region’s cultural life. “Fibre arts have deep roots in Atlantic Canada,” he observes, “and Leslie’s work takes that tradition into genuinely contemporary territory.”

Leslie McFarlane is a Nova Scotia fibre artist and a juried member of Craft Nova Scotia. She has taught and exhibited with the organization and continues to exhibit and teach throughout Atlantic Canada, sharing her interest in felt as a contemporary fine art practice.

Leslie McFarlane’s “Whispers of Wool: A Textural Language” opens August 1 and runs through September 5, 2026.

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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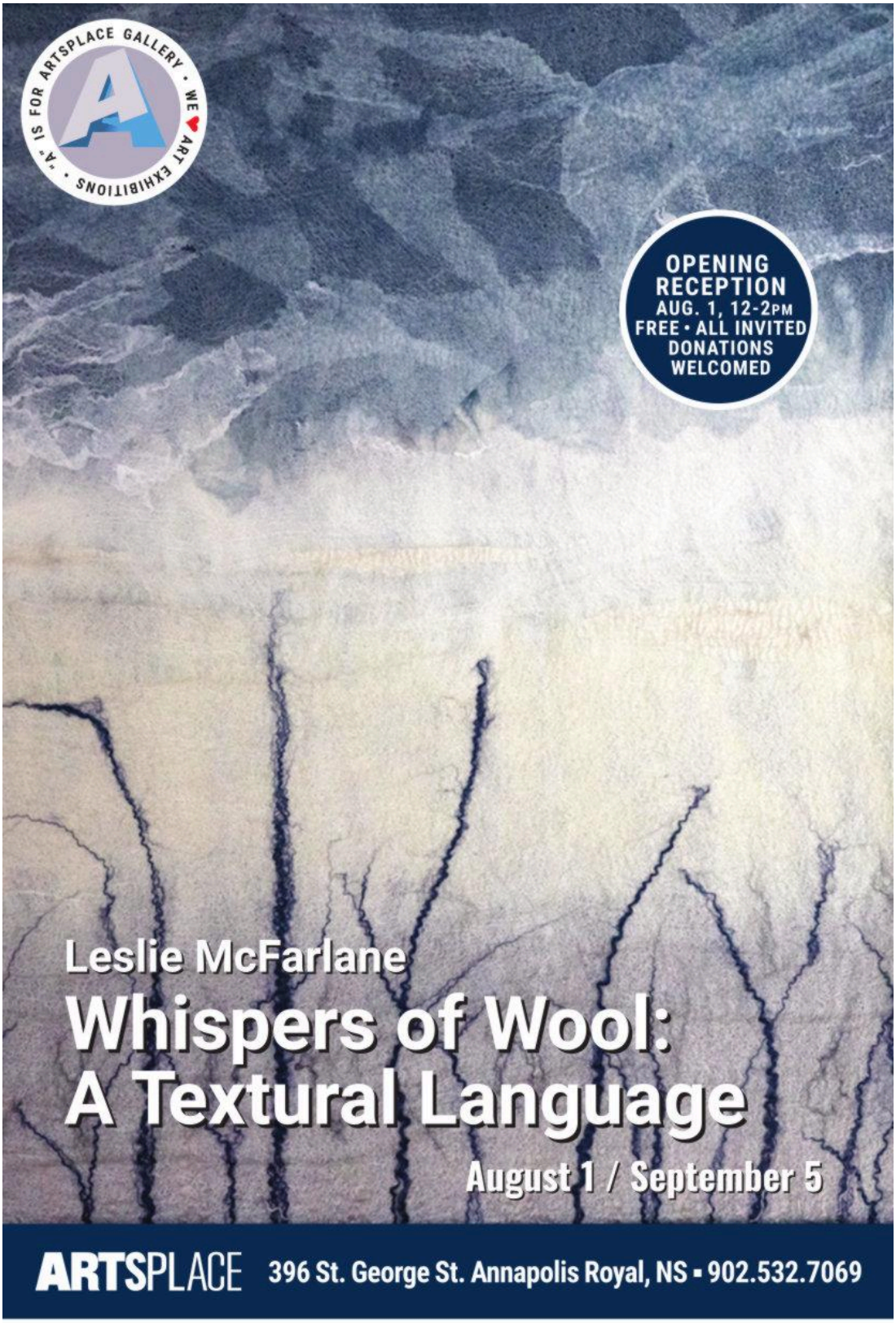

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