

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Art Rooted in Land, Water, and Cultural Continuity

ANNAPOLIS ROYAL, Nova Scotia (August 15, 2025) – ARTSPLACE Gallery presents “the waters meet,” a collaboration between Newfoundland-based artists Melissa Tremblett and Nicole Travers. The project honours the deep connections between family, community, land, and water and reflects a shared commitment to protecting these relationships for the next seven generations.

As Innu and Mi'kmaw women, Melissa and Nicole come from families sustained by the resources of the land and sea. Both live and work in Elmastukwek (Bay of Islands), Ktaqmkuk (Newfoundland), and their practices are united by shared commitments to sustainability, sovereignty over natural resources, and the preservation of traditional knowledge.

Melissa's work emerges from vivid memories of summers spent with her father and grandfather mending gill nets. She recalls accompanying her father to set the nets, learning each step in quiet observation. Her paternal heritage is both settler and Innu, and she brings these ancestries together in a net that combines her grandfather's fishing methods with her grandmother's beadwork techniques. Using seed beads and netting rope from her father, she assembles the net one pair of beads at a time, symbolizing the equal importance of both heritages. Photographs of Melissa and her father setting nets in a location used by her family for decades accompany the work, underscoring the continuity of teachings passed through generations.

“Our work speaks to the ways knowledge moves quietly through time,” say Tremblett and Travers, “carried in the hands of those who came before us and passed on to those who will come after.”

Nicole's work draws on skills learned from her father and grandfather, building lobster traps, knitting nets, and preparing trawl lines. She incorporates foraged natural materials and methods such as bark tanning, a practice that has nearly disappeared in Newfoundland and Labrador. Only a small number of people continue this tradition today. Her work emphasizes minimal environmental impact, ensuring that the materials will naturally decompose and return to the land.

“Together, Melissa and Nicole create an exhibition that is both personal and communal, an expression of cultural continuity, resilience, and a profound respect for the natural world,” says Sophie Paskins, ARTSPLACE Gallery Director.

“the waters meet” opening reception Sat. September 6, 2025, 12-2 p.m. Artist Talk, 1:00 p.m. Light refreshments served, all welcome. Exhibition continues through October 25.

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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