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A Hospital Window, a Plastic Glass, and the Stubborn Light of Being 84

ANNAPOLIS ROYAL, Nova Scotia (July 8, 2026) – ARTSPLACE Gallery is pleased to present “Glass ½ Full”, a new body of work by Nova Scotia artist Charlotte Wilson-Hammond.

The exhibition began with an accident. Nearly two years ago, Wilson-Hammond tripped while dusting her sunroom, broke her hip, and spent almost three weeks in hospital and rehabilitation. From a bed beside a window, she began photographing her plastic water glass—at night, in daylight, as the hours passed and meaning gathered. That humble object became the seed of this series.

Working from photographs printed at very low colour saturation on Hahnemühle digital paper, Wilson-Hammond applied coloured pencil by hand, building layers of tone and warmth back into images she had deliberately drained. As the series developed, she introduced other glasses, half full, holding flowers—images she describes simply as joyful.

“The time in hospital was something of a creative epiphany for me,” Wilson-Hammond says. “I am not sure why, except that perhaps it was a mechanism to keep me sane, and it was quite extraordinary.” At 84, she is candid about what drives the work: an acute awareness of body and mind changing, of navigating life’s uncertainties, and of holding onto the conviction that the glass will remain half full. Wilson-Hammond, elected to the Royal Canadian Academy of the Arts in 2006, has spent four decades as one of Nova Scotia’s most committed arts advocates, with major exhibitions at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, the Craig Gallery, and ARTSPLACE Gallery itself. Her previous series “On the Verge” and “In/Visible”, the latter a Lieutenant Governor’s Masterworks Award finalist, established her as an artist who meets large subjects with formal precision.

“Charlotte’s work asks serious questions through images of quiet beauty,” says gallery director Sophie Paskins. “That combination, rigour and warmth together, is exactly what this exhibition brings to this community. Charlotte gives form to something we don’t always have words for.”

“Glass ½ Full” opening reception Saturday, August 1, from 12 to 2 p.m. Light refreshments will be served, all are welcome. Exhibition continues 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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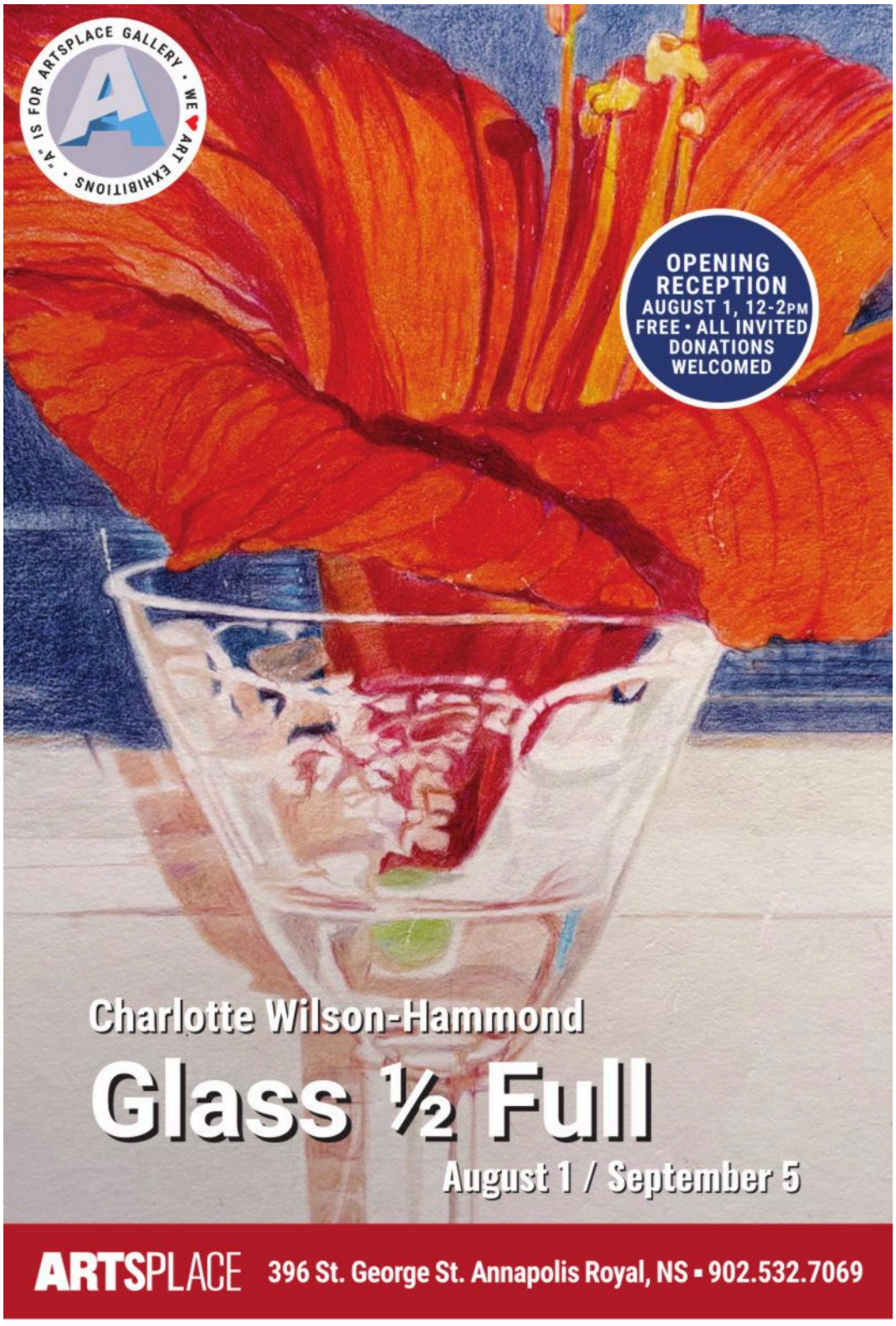

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