

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Floriography and Form: Dayna Schaly's Personal and Poetic Sculptures

ANNAPOLIS ROYAL, Nova Scotia (March 11, 2025) – Opening this spring at ARTSPLACE Gallery, *Speaking* is a sculptural exhibition by Kijipuktuk/Halifax-based artist Dayna Schaly. Through the language of plants—floriography, folklore, and botany—Schaly transforms personal memory and emotion into botanical forms, creating a visual dialogue that bridges past and present experiences.

Schaly's practice is deeply rooted in personal experience. Growing up in the Ottawa Valley, she spent much of her childhood immersed in the family greenhouse, surrounded by the scent of soil and the humid air of cultivated blooms. It wasn't until she lived in a high-rise apartment in downtown Toronto that she recognized a profound longing for these natural elements. Seeking to reconnect with her past, she began researching the histories and symbolic meanings of plants, leading to a new form of creative expression.

"Through intuitive sculpting, Schaly creates botanical forms that serve as vessels for memory and emotion. Each plant is carefully shaped, arranged, and layered with personal significance, reflecting her process of self-exploration. The works act as meditative reflections—delicate yet profound expressions of thoughts often left unspoken," said Sophie Paskins, ARTSPLACE Gallery Director.

A neurodivergent and introspective artist, Schaly finds that traditional verbal communication does not always align with her experiences. Her sculptures offer an alternative language—one that is both private and universal, delicate yet resilient. In *Speaking*, she transforms vulnerability into a visual dialogue, bridging the past and present in a way that is deeply personal yet accessible to all.

Dayna Schaly's "Speaking" opening reception Sat. April 5, 2025, 12-2 p.m. Light refreshments served, all welcome. Exhibition continues through May 24.

Dayna Schaly (she/her) is a mixed-media artist and holds a BFA in Drawing and Painting from the Ontario College of Art and Design University. Her work frequently engages with themes of neurodivergence and identity, using nature as a grounding visual language. She currently lives and works in Kijipuktuk/Halifax, Nova Scotia.

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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