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Z'otz* Collective Brings Their Playful Spirit and Collaborative Storytelling to ARTSPLACE Gallery

ANNAPOLIS ROYAL, Nova Scotia (February 2, 2023) – Three visual artists with a passion for collaboration are getting ready to create a site-specific work at the ARTSPLACE Gallery in Annapolis Royal. Z'otz* Collective was formed in 2004 by Nahúm Flores (Honduras), Erik Jerezano (Mexico), and Ilyana Martínez (Mexico/Canada) who share Latin American roots and a Toronto studio where they've joined forces to create drawings, collages, sculptures, and site-specific installations.

“Their work has a playful spirit, quirky subjects, and hybrid characters that connect to the storytelling traditions of their culture and history. Drawing is their primary means of expression and is used to respond to each other and to what surrounds them. Their approach allows them to create idiosyncratic images that touch on the experiences of migration, transformation, and regeneration,” said Ted Lind, ARTSPLACE Board Member.

The upcoming exhibition, *Words From Returning Rocks*, will include collaborative drawings, sculptures, and an in-situ ephemeral wall drawing.

Z'otz* is intrigued by the niche—from the French “nicher” meaning to make a nest—as a space to incubate, collect, investigate, and share stories. The concept of the niche is used as a point of departure for their installation and contains mythological beings, animals, and symbols. The group's name comes from the Mayan word for bat, an animal that represented dreaming and intuition in the Mesoamerican world.

“An important part of the artists' process is to be engaged with the communities that view their work, through a series of artist talks and workshops. While they create their wall work in the gallery, they'll be available to talk about it so viewers can get a 'behind the scenes' look at the process,” said Sophie Paskins, ARTSPLACE Gallery Director.

The artists of Z'otz Collective will be in residence at ARTSPLACE from Tuesday, February 21 - Friday, February 24, drop-ins welcome. Opening reception, Saturday, February 25, 12- 2. The exhibition Words From Returning Rocks will run to March 25 (also showing, Ken Flett, Karen Phillips-Curran, Life Drawing Group).*

ARTSPLACE is a public Art Gallery that is operated by the Annapolis Region Community Arts Council, a registered non-profit, 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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