

# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Cape Breton Centre for Craft & Design launches ASTUA'SIJ (Where Paths Meet) Exhibition with support from TD Bank Group**

Sydney (NS) – March 28, 2023 – Cape Breton Centre for Craft & Design is pleased to announce a new exhibition called ASTUA'SIJ. The opening will take place on Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup> from 2-4pm, at the J. Franklin Wright Gallery in the Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre.

The exhibition title, ASTUA'SIJ, means “where paths meet” in the Mi'kmaw language. It references the separate journeys of the four (4) emerging Mi'kmaw artists featured in the exhibition coming together to present an array of creative methods that reflect on cultural identity. The artists featured in this exhibition are Marissa Prosper, Laylia Bennett, Tracy Marshall, and Joef Bernard.

This group exhibition aims to bridge the gaps of exclusion by making space for Indigenous perspectives and to bolster community engagement in rural areas. The works featured in this exhibition considers the interconnectivity between humans and the natural environment in the contemporary world while utilizing traditional materials and practices to undermine colonial ideas of value by prioritizing acts of patience, care, and reciprocity.

“We are thrilled to expand our collaboration with the Town of Port Hawkesbury by presenting this important exhibition of emerging Indigenous talent,” says Lori Burke, Executive Director at Cape Breton Centre for Craft & Design. “The exhibition provides artists the opportunity to showcase their creative practice and the community a chance to engage in dialogue around inclusion and decolonization.”

“The Town of Port Hawkesbury is pleased to partner with Cape Breton Centre for Craft & Design on this exhibition,” says Brenda Chisholm-Beaton, Mayor of the Town of Port Hawkesbury. “The cultural sector is a significant contributor to our Island's social and economic well-being and a way to grow our community – we welcome artists to our thriving town where opportunities await.”

Art is a large part of cultural identity and history, which can expose people to perspectives outside of their own. Understanding other perspectives can foster connections between peoples as we appreciate our similarities and differences.

As individuals from diverse groups see people like them working and creating change, they can better envision their future selves and the possible positive impacts on their communities. Through this exhibition the hope is to bring forth new understandings and to gather where paths meet.

The exhibition will be on display at the J. Franklin Wright Gallery until May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

**Cape Breton for Craft & Design's mandate is to promote excellence in the field of craft and design, both professional and recreational, through education and training. The Centre's role as an integral and leading force within the craft sector on Cape Breton Island is educational, promotional, and developmental.**

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*Cape Breton Centre for Craft & Design is located in Unama'ki, the land of fog, the unceded and traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq. At the Centre, we strive to honour and uphold the Treaties of Peace and Friendship made with the Mi'kmaq by celebrating the ongoing tradition of beautiful and creative craftsmanship of the First Peoples of this land.*

