

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Dalhousie Art Gallery presents *Alan Syliboy: The Journey So Far*, a new retrospective celebrating over fifty years of artmaking by the renowned Mi'kmaw artist**

**HALIFAX, NS – April 30, 2024** – Dalhousie Art Gallery (DAG) is pleased to announce the opening of *The Journey So Far*, a survey exhibition featuring a diverse range of works by the celebrated Mi'kmaw artist Alan Syliboy. Curated by DAG Director and Curator Pamela Edmonds, the exhibition will be open to the public from **May 9 to August 11, 2024**.

The exhibition spans the breadth of Syliboy's expansive creative practice with works from the 1970s through to the present, including rare early paintings, illustrations, films and animations, music from his award-winning band Alan Syliboy and the Thundermakers, as well as painted drums and a specially commissioned wall mural. Drawing from a rich tapestry of ancestral petroglyphs, quillwork, and oral traditions, Syliboy's art reflects a harmonious fusion of tradition and innovation, distinguishing him as a key figure in contemporary Indigenous art. His distinctive artmaking serves as a testament to his adept use of recurring symbols, figures and motifs that bring to life the stories of Mi'kmaq history and spirituality and the enduring connection between the land, nature and the cosmos.



Alan Syliboy, *Star and Four Direction Whales*, 2022. Acrylic on canvas. Collection of Dalhousie Art Gallery.

A significant highlight of the exhibition is the inclusion of a series of works from the private collection of Marcia Hennessey, a dedicated collector who acquired nearly 100 of Syliboy's pieces over three decades. This segment of the exhibition allows visitors to explore Syliboy's artistic journey and witness his creative evolution over time, providing some insight into the bond between the artist and collector.

Alan Syliboy studied painting with Shirley Bear before attending the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (Halifax, NS), eventually joining the university's Board of Governors 25 years later. He received the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal in 2002 and was long listed for the prestigious Sobey Art Award in 2023. Alan Syliboy has been part of many group and solo exhibitions nationally and worldwide, including at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia (Halifax, NS) and Musée du Bas-Saint-Laurent (Rivière-du-Loup, QC). Born and raised in Truro, Nova Scotia, Alan Syliboy lives and works from his art studio in Millbrook First Nation.

The reception for *The Journey So Far* will take place on **Thursday, June 20 from 6:00 – 8:00 PM**, in recognition of National Indigenous History Month. The artist and curator will be in attendance.

Gallery hours are Wednesday and Friday, 11 AM to 5 PM; Thursday 11 AM to 8 PM, and Saturday and Sunday 12 to 5 PM. For more information about Dalhousie Art Gallery, please visit [www.artgallery.dal.ca](http://www.artgallery.dal.ca) or @dalhousie\_art\_gallery on Instagram. Media inquiries can be directed to Director/Curator Pamela Edmonds at [pamela.edmonds@dal.ca](mailto:pamela.edmonds@dal.ca).