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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dalhousie Art Gallery presents *Allen D. Crooks: Family Matters*, featuring photographs of African Nova Scotian community

HALIFAX, NS – January 11, 2023 – This February, Dalhousie Art Gallery is set to unveil *Family Matters*, a solo exhibition showcasing the work of local artist Allen D. Crooks. *Family Matters* will be on display in the DAG Alcove from February 3 – April 7, 2024. **The opening reception for the exhibition will take place in the Gallery on Friday, February 2, from 7:00 – 10:00 pm. The artist will be in attendance.**

Allen Crooks' poignant black and white photography captures the essence of shared experiences, celebrating the resilience and vibrancy of the African Nova Scotian community from varied perspectives. *Family Matters* goes beyond mere visual documentation; it is a heartfelt homage to the profound importance of familial connections, revealed through his intimate and deeply human treatment of each subject. Through Crooks' lens, this exhibition serves as a testament to enduring strength and rich cultural heritage, highlighting the beauty found in the nuances of daily life and the invaluable ties that bind us together.

Family Matters will share the spotlight with *As We Rise: Photography from the Black Atlantic*, an international touring exhibition on view in the Gallery's main space.



Allen Crooks, *Untitled*, 2009. Archival silver gelatin print on paper, 11"x14". From *Family Matters*, courtesy of the artist

Allen D. Crooks is a photographer and owner of Halifax Darkroom and Studio; a member-based space and community of film photographers. As a full-time IT Contract Consultant, Allen's photography and darkroom process allows him the necessary escape from the stress and rigors of a demanding day job.

His photography practice is focused on personal and social documentary. He engages in long term self-directed projects that resonate with him on a personal and creative level. As a traditional darkroom printer, he believes that a beautifully crafted print is a means of giving an image a beautiful 'home.' As an image maker, he also believes that it is an obligation to provide a place where images can live in a beautifully rendered print.

Allen's work has been exhibited across Canada in solo and group exhibitions. Additionally, his work has been published in numerous publications including SEITIES, PhotoEd and the cover image for Phonse Jessome's novel *Disposable Souls*.

Allen D. Crooks will give an illustrative talk about his art practice, influences and exhibition on Thursday, February 15, from 6:00 – 7:30 in the Gallery.

Admission to Dalhousie Art Gallery is always free to the public. Gallery hours are Wednesday and Friday, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Thursdays 11:00 am to 8:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. For more details, please visit www.artgallery.dal.ca.

Media inquiries can be directed to Director/Curator Pamela Edmonds at pamela.edmonds@dal.ca.

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