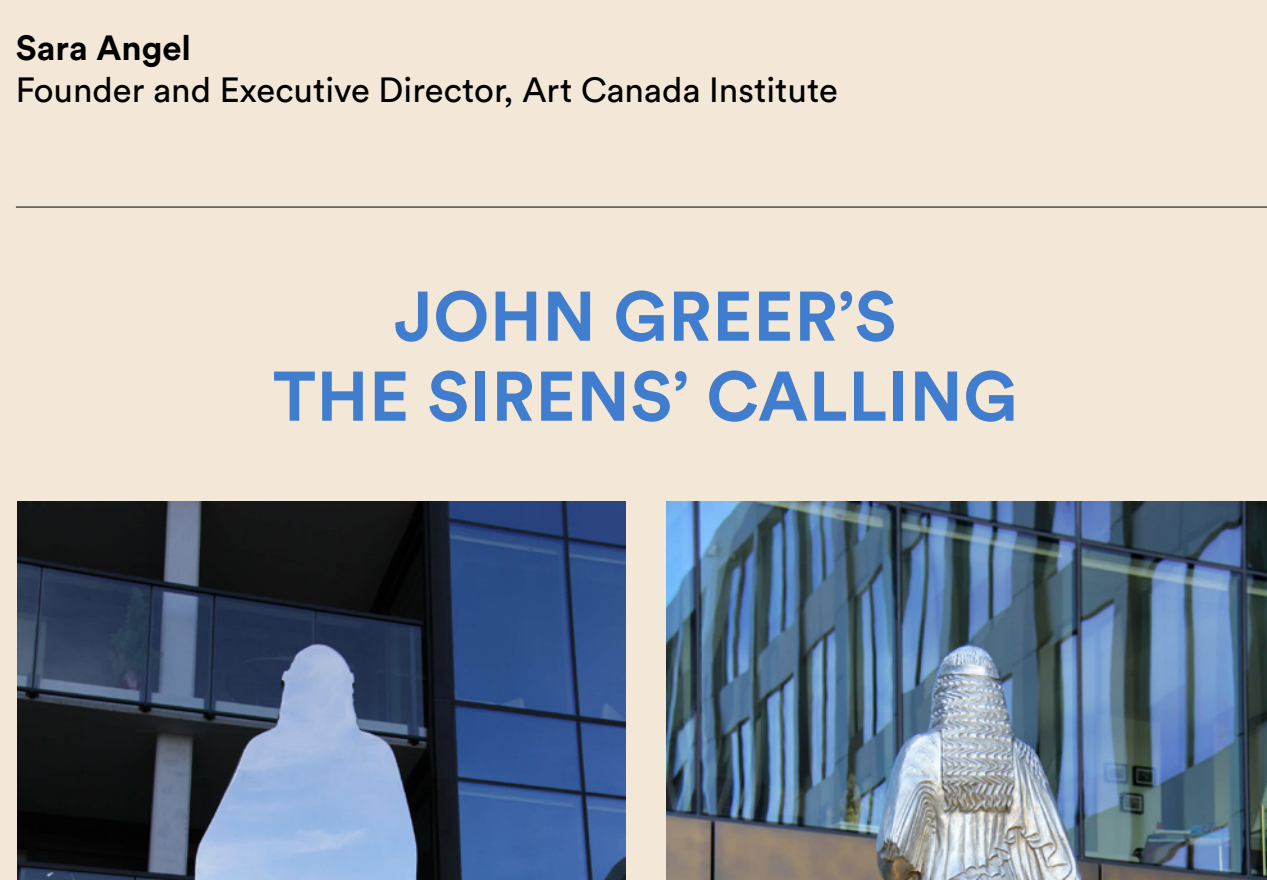


MAY 24, 2024



HALIFAX FOR ART LOVERS TEN PLACES TO VISIT

Heading to Halifax? We have you covered on the top art-related sights to see.



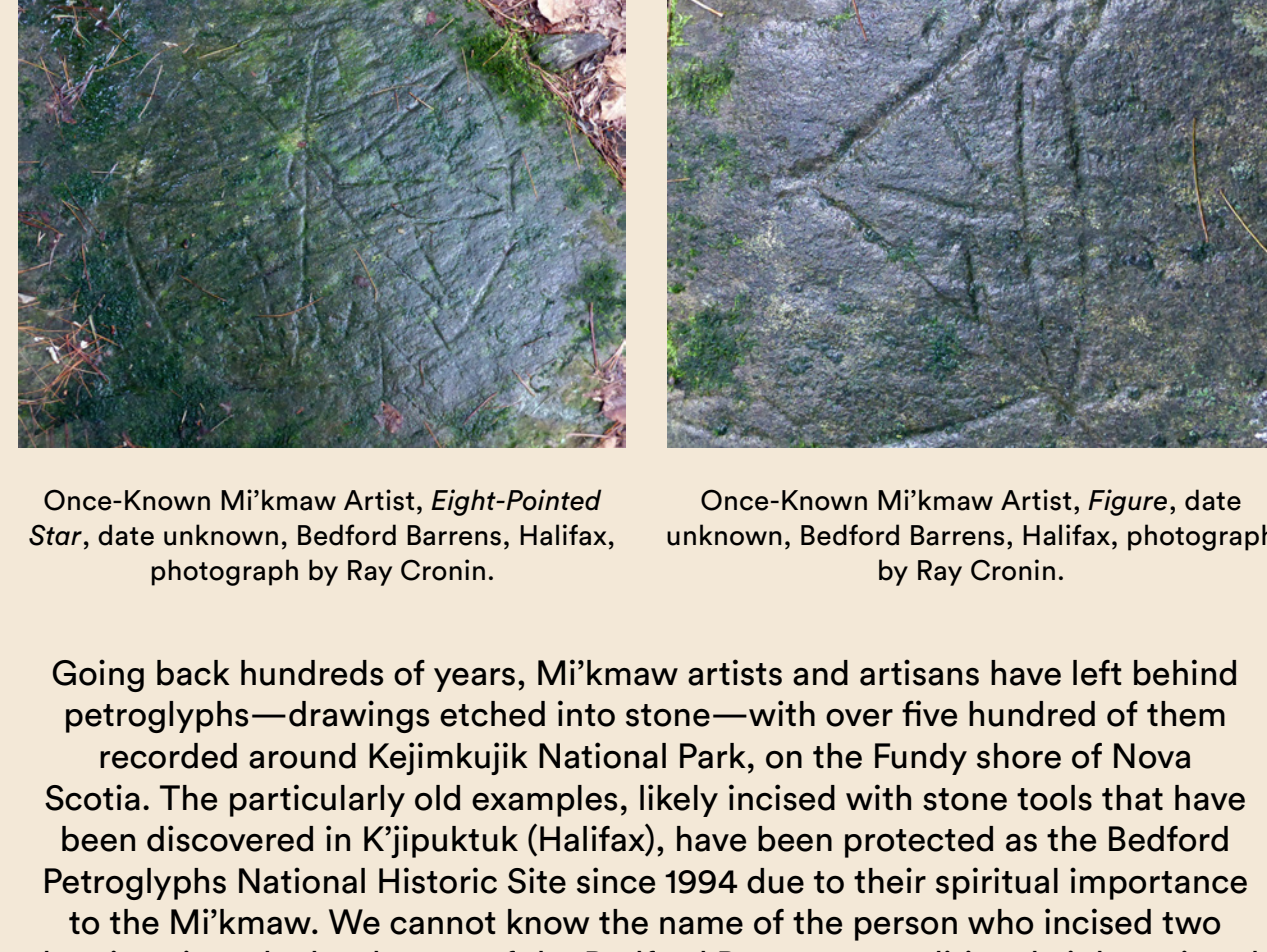
Today, we launch our inaugural city guide edition of this newsletter, in which we begin with Halifax, a place that is arguably a crucible of art in Canada. In addition to being the site of ancient Mi'kmaw petroglyphs, it was home to Canada's first art exhibition, first fine art association, and first degree-granting independent art college. This newsletter coincides with the release of ACI's newest print publication: *Halifax Art & Artists: An Illustrated History*. We asked the book's author, Ray Cronin, to guest-edit this newsletter and share his top art picks for the city.



Ray Cronin

Sara Angel
Founder and Executive Director, Art Canada Institute

JOHN GREER'S THE SIRENS' CALLING

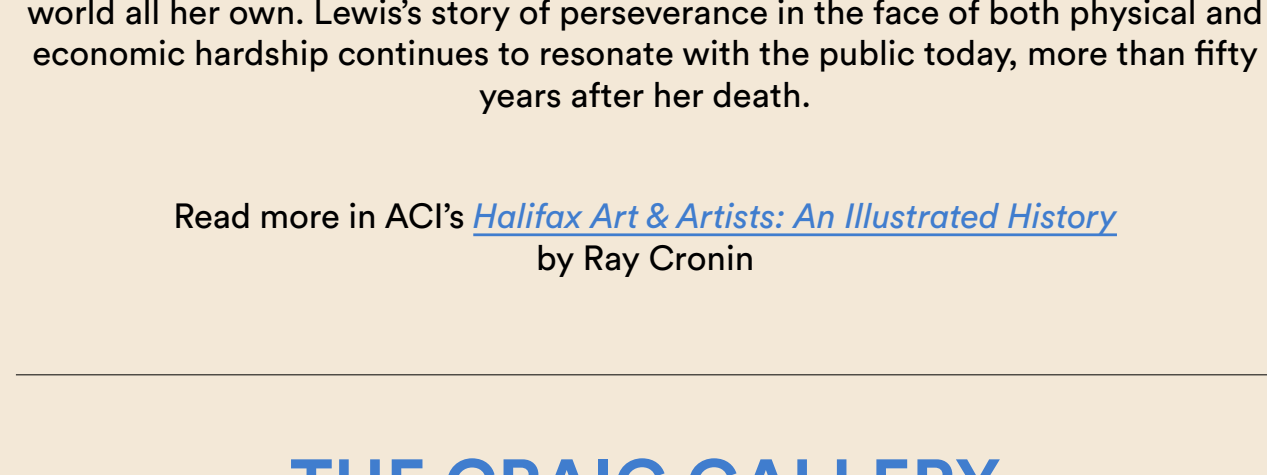


Installation views of John Greer, *The Sirens' Calling* (single figure), 2020, Lower Water Street, Halifax, photograph by Vanessa Paschakarnis.

Born in Amherst, Nova Scotia, sculptor John Greer (b.1944) created the striking quartet *The Sirens' Calling*, 2020, for the waterfront at Queen's Marquee on Lower Water Street. Inspired by the sirens of Homer's *Odyssey*, each figure is based on an archaic Greek marble and is made up of a two-dimensional mirrored surface on the front (above left) and sculpted relief on the back (above right). Here, Greer approaches sculptural techniques like carving and casting with a conceptual lens. Caught in the act of taking a step forward, the four sirens are arranged in a row, with each representing a cardinal point. Greer's work is exhibited regularly in Halifax, both in galleries and in public sites.

Read more in ACI's [Halifax Art & Artists: An Illustrated History](#) by Ray Cronin

PETROGLYPHS AT BEDFORD BARRENS



Once-Known Mi'kmaw Artist, *Eight-Pointed Star*, date unknown, Bedford Barrens, Halifax, photograph by Ray Cronin.

Once-Known Mi'kmaw Artist, *Figure*, date unknown, Bedford Barrens, Halifax, photograph by Ray Cronin.

Going back hundreds of years, Mi'kmaw artists and artisans have left behind petroglyphs—drawings etched into stone—with over five hundred of them recorded around Kejimikujik National Park, on the Fundy shore of Nova Scotia. The particularly old examples, likely incised with stone tools that have been discovered in K'ijipuktuk (Halifax), have been protected as the Bedford Petroglyphs National Historic Site since 1994 due to their spiritual importance to the Mi'kmaw. We cannot know the name of the person who incised two drawings into the hard stone of the Bedford Barrens: a traditional eight-pointed star on the left and a figure on the right.

Read more in ACI's [Halifax Art & Artists: An Illustrated History](#) by Ray Cronin

MAUD LEWIS'S PAINTED HOUSE AT THE ART GALLERY OF NOVA SCOTIA

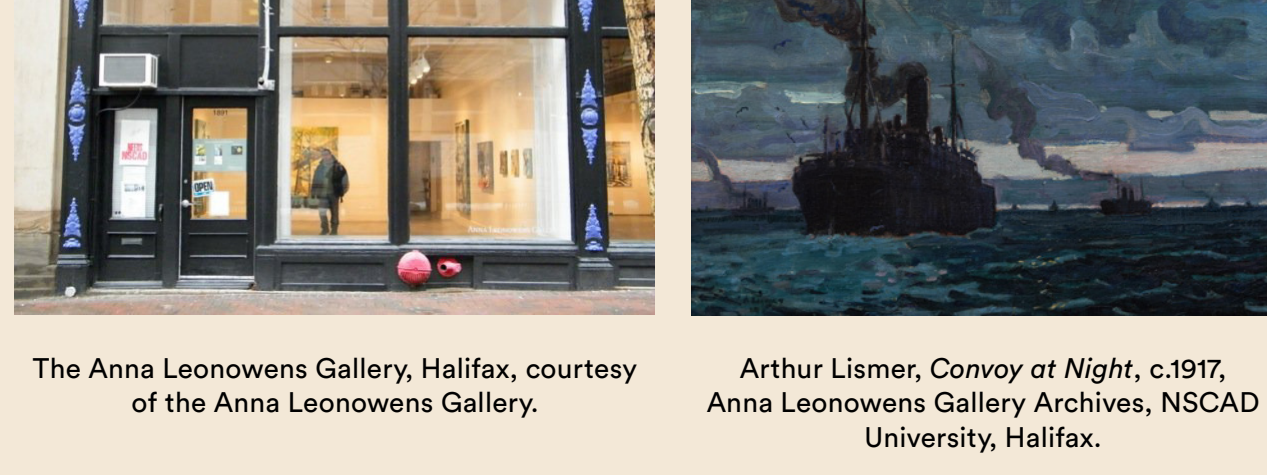


Maud Lewis House, c.1920s, courtesy of the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia.

Born in Yarmouth, N.S., **Maud Lewis** (1903–1970) is arguably the best-known artist from Nova Scotia today. Her beautiful painted dwelling, Maud Lewis House, c.1920s, which was moved from its original site more than 200 km away in Marshalltown to be permanently installed at the [Art Gallery of Nova Scotia](#), attracts thousands of visitors to Halifax annually. The artist once lived in this tiny home, which she heavily embellished, painting almost every surface to create a world all her own. Lewis's story of perseverance in the face of both physical and economic hardship continues to resonate with the public today, more than fifty years after her death.

Read more in ACI's [Halifax Art & Artists: An Illustrated History](#) by Ray Cronin

THE CRAIG GALLERY AT ALDERNEY LANDING



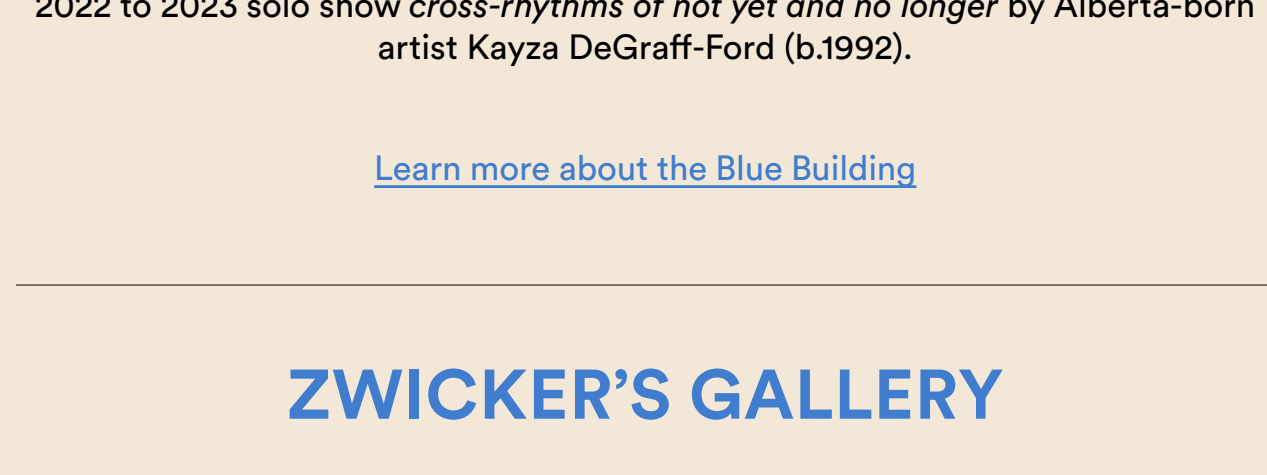
The Craig Gallery, 2024, courtesy of the Craig Gallery, Dartmouth.

Installation view of the exhibition *Harbour* by Alana Lea Wilson at the Craig Gallery, Dartmouth, 2024, courtesy of the Craig Gallery, Dartmouth.

The Craig Gallery at Alderney Landing—which also includes a convention centre, market, events plaza, and theatre—is a public art gallery in Dartmouth, just across the Angus L. Macdonald Bridge from Halifax. Programmed by a volunteer committee primarily populated by artists from the region, the Craig Gallery (above left) aims to display work in a diversity of mediums by local creators, both emerging and established. Alana Lea Wilson, who works in ceramics, recently presented her exhibition *Harbour* at the gallery (above right). Exploring themes of longing and belonging, it included a bold three-dimensional ceramic wallpaper.

[Learn more about the Craig Gallery](#)

CHRIS HANSON AND HENDRIKA SONNENBERG'S GOT DRUNK, FELL DOWN AND FOUNTAIN



Chris Hanson and Hendrika Sonnenberg, *Fountain* (background) and *Got Drunk, Fell Down* (foreground), 2012, Halifax Waterfront, Nova Scotia, courtesy of Must Do Canada.

Acclaimed artists Chris Hanson (b.1964) and Hendrika Sonnenberg (b.1963) created the hilarious and very popular public sculptures *Fountain* (above background) and *Got Drunk, Fell Down* (above foreground) for the 2012 Nuit Blanche in Toronto before they took up permanent residence at Bishop's Landing Dock on the Halifax waterfront a year later. The artist duo—based in Minden in Haliburton County, Ontario, where they have been collaborating for twenty-five years now—wittily reimagine what sculpture can do. Here, they have crafted a trio of full-size lampposts: one "vomiting" water is joined by a pair where one wobbles as its companion drunkenly collapses onto the dock. The works playfully reference the port city's notorious drinking culture.

[Learn more about Chris Hanson and Hendrika Sonnenberg](#)

THE ANNA LEONOWENS GALLERY OF NSCAD UNIVERSITY



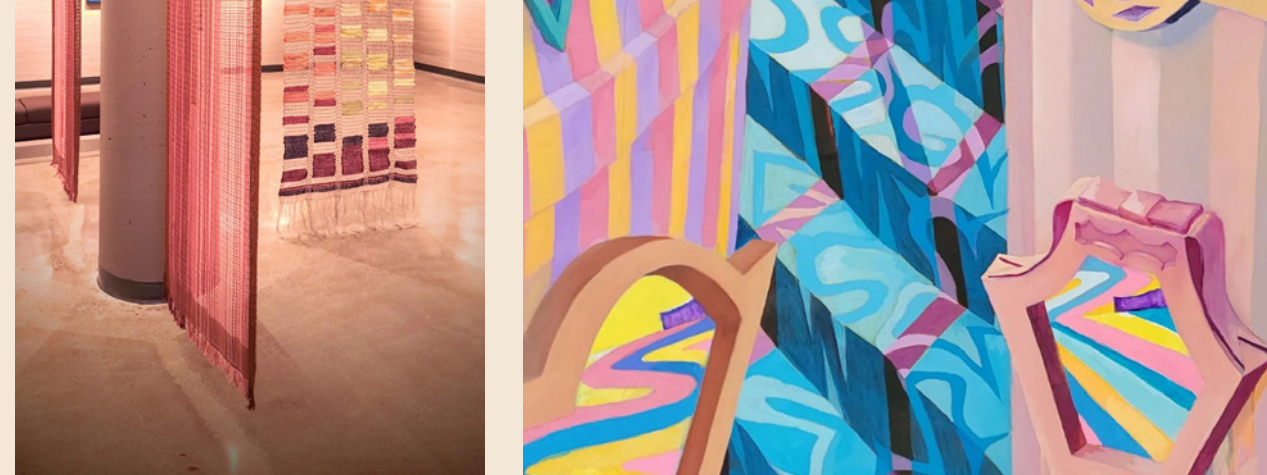
The Anna Leonowens Gallery, Halifax, courtesy of the Anna Leonowens Gallery.

Arthur Lismer, *Convoy at Night*, c.1917, Anna Leonowens Gallery Archives, NSCAD University, Halifax.

In 1969, the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design became the first independent degree-granting art school in Canada; it became NSCAD University in 2003. Tracing its history even further back, to 1968, the Anna Leonowens Gallery Systems ("The Anna," above left) is the university's public exhibition space, presenting shows by professional artists alongside graduating student exhibitions at multiple venues, including its main storefront space on Stanville Mall. The Anna has staged more than 4,600 exhibitions over its history, and its permanent collection features historic works of Halifax art, such as Arthur Lismer's nautical scene *Convoy at Night*, c.1917 (above right).

[Learn more about the Anna Leonowens Gallery](#)

THE BLUE BUILDING



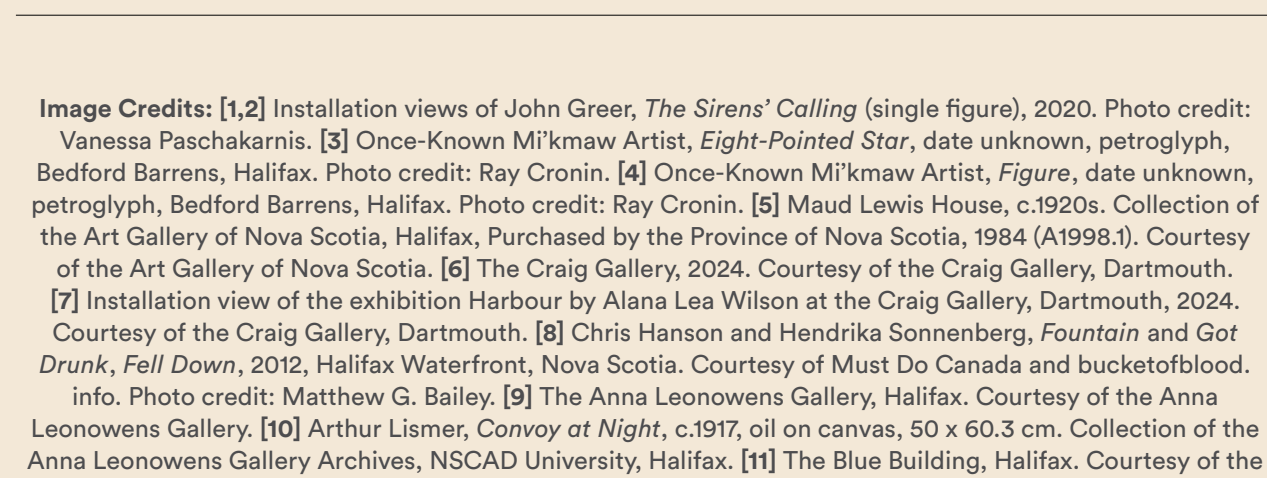
The Blue Building, Halifax, courtesy of the Blue Building.

Kayza DeGraff-Ford, *Landscape Noir*, 2021, courtesy of the Blue Building, Halifax.

The Blue Building Gallery (above left) is a contemporary commercial gallery at 2482 Maynard Street that was opened by artist Emily Falencki in February 2021. The Blue Building provides accessible and affordable studios to artists and spaces to artist-led non-profits. It also houses the Gallery, which exhibits and represents artists at different stages in their careers, including Emily Vey Duke and Cooper Battersby, Ursula Johnson, and Sheilagh ReStack. The organization [notes](#), "The ethos of The Blue Building is one of collaboration and excellence." The arresting painting *Landscape Noir*, 2021 (above right), was presented in the 2022 to 2023 solo show *Cross-rhythms of not yet and no longer* by Alberta-born artist Kayza DeGraff-Ford (b.1992).

[Learn more about the Blue Building](#)

ZWICKER'S GALLERY



Zwicker's Gallery, Halifax, courtesy of Colliers.

Interior view of Zwicker's Gallery, Halifax, 2014, courtesy of Mostly the Coast.

Currently located at 5415 Doyle Street near the Spring Garden shopping district, Zwicker's Gallery (above left) is Halifax's oldest art gallery. It was founded in 1886 by Judson Zwicker and run by the Zwicker family until 1970, when it was taken over by Ian and Anne Muncester. Once the main hub for artistic activity in Halifax at a time when there were few public art institutions, the clientele consisted largely of British garrison officers and their wives (Halifax once hosted the second-largest military garrison in the British Empire). Artworks found at Zwicker's today range from the historic to the contemporary and include landscapes (above right), portraiture, and abstraction.

[Learn more about Zwicker's Gallery](#)

KATZMAN ART PROJECTS

Marcel Kerkhoff, *The Forest, The Animals, The Trees*, 2024, courtesy of Katzman Art Projects, Halifax.

Another longstanding and influential commercial gallery in Halifax was Studio 21 Fine Art, which promoted Atlantic Canadian artists nationally and internationally. Founded in 1983 by Ineke Graham, Deborah Carver took over as owner and director of the gallery in 2011. In September 2023, Studio 21 Fine Art changed ownership and became Katzman Art Projects under the leadership of long-time gallerist Marianne Katzman, who operated Katzman Contemporary in Toronto, among other ventures, and relocated to Halifax during the pandemic. The space recently presented an exhibition of surrealist tableaux by NSCAD alumni Marcel Kerkhoff (b.1968) in 2024 (above).

[Learn more about Katzman Art Projects](#)

CHASE GALLERY AT THE NOVA SCOTIA ARCHIVES

Christiane Poulin, *Reflections*, 2018, and *Along Mill Road*, 2024, courtesy of the artist.

Mary Barnard Fitzgerald, *Teal Stairs Between Paintings*, 2024, courtesy of NS reviews.

Chase Gallery is located on the lobby level of the Nova Scotia Archives building at 6016 University Avenue, offering an exhibition space for local and regional artists as well as for arts organizations. In January 2024, the gallery presented the sumptuous five-woman exhibition *reView*, featuring the elegant hanging weavings of Christiane Poulin (above left) and Mary Barnard Fitzgerald's colourful surrealist canvases (above right), as well as works by artists Genny Killin, Monika Wright, and Carla Middelburg. The gallery also hosts the Contemporary Art Society's Annual Juried Exhibition and Sale, with thirty-five artists included in this year's edition.

[Learn more about Chase Gallery](#)

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Image Credits: [1-2] Installation views of John Greer, *The Sirens' Calling* (single figure), 2020. Photo credit: Vanessa Paschakarnis. [3] Once-Known Mi'kmaw Artist, *Eight-Pointed Star*, date unknown, petroglyph, Bedford Barrens, Halifax. Photo credit: Ray Cronin. [4] Once-Known Mi'kmaw Artist, *Figure*, date unknown, petroglyph, Bedford Barrens, Halifax. Photo credit: Ray Cronin. [5] Maud Lewis House, c.1920s. Collection of the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Halifax. Purchased by the Province of Nova Scotia, 1984 (A1998.1). Courtesy of the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia. [6] The Craig Gallery, 2024. Courtesy of the Craig Gallery, Dartmouth. [7] Installation view of the exhibition *Harbour* by Alana Lea Wilson at the Craig Gallery, Dartmouth, 2024. Courtesy of the Craig Gallery, Dartmouth. [8] Chris Hanson and Hendrika Sonnenberg, *Fountain* and *Got Drunk, Fell Down*, 2012, Halifax Waterfront, Nova Scotia. Courtesy of Must Do Canada and bucketofblood.info. Photo credit: Matthew G. Bailey. [9] The Anna Leonowens Gallery, Halifax. Courtesy of the Anna Leonowens Gallery. [10] Arthur Lismer, *Convoy at Night*, c.1917, oil on canvas, 50 x 60.3 cm. Collection of the Anna Leonowens Gallery Archives, NSCAD University, Halifax. [11] The Blue Building, Halifax. Courtesy of the Blue Building. [12] Kayza DeGraff-Ford, *Landscape Noir*, 2021, oil on canvas, 152.4 x 116.8 cm. Courtesy of the Blue Building. Photo by Ryan Jossey. [13] Zwicker's Gallery, Halifax. Courtesy of Colliers. [14] Interior view of Zwicker's Gallery, Halifax, 2014. Courtesy of Mostly the Coast. Photograph by John McCarthy. [15] Marcel Kerkhoff, *The Forest, The Animals, The Trees*, 2024, oil on canvas, 81.5 x 66 cm. Courtesy of Katzman Art Projects, Halifax. [16] Christiane Poulin, *Reflections*, 2018, and *Along Mill Road*, 2024, installation view at the Chase Gallery, Nova Scotia Archives. Courtesy of the artist. Photo by David Elliott. [17] Mary Barnard Fitzgerald, *Teal Stairs Between Paintings*, 2024, oil and acrylic on board. Courtesy of NS reviews. Photo credit: Elissa Barrard.