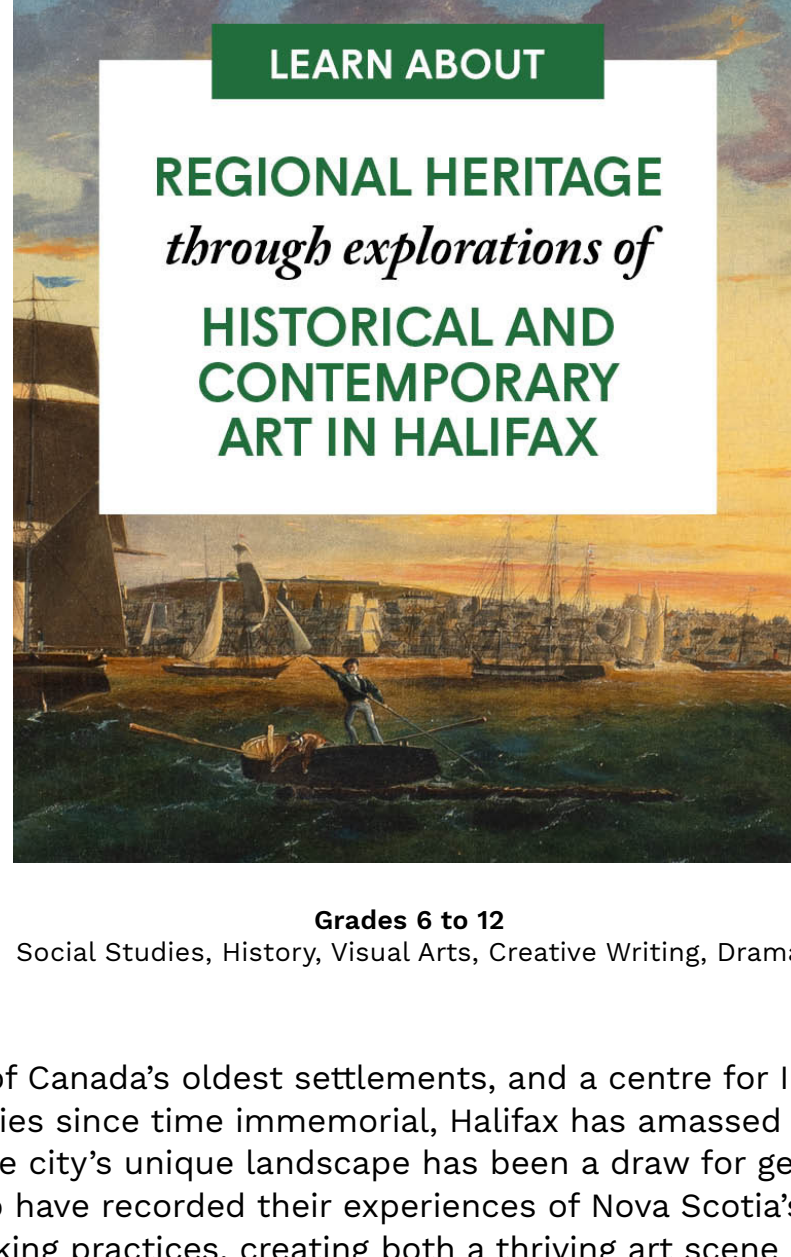


## EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

CREATIVITY IN THE MARITIME CITY  
SPOTLIGHTING HALIFAX'S HERITAGE

*Examine multiple perspectives on history and cultural heritage through ACI's newest educational resource based on the art of Halifax creators.*



Grades 6 to 12  
Social Studies, History, Visual Arts, Creative Writing, Drama

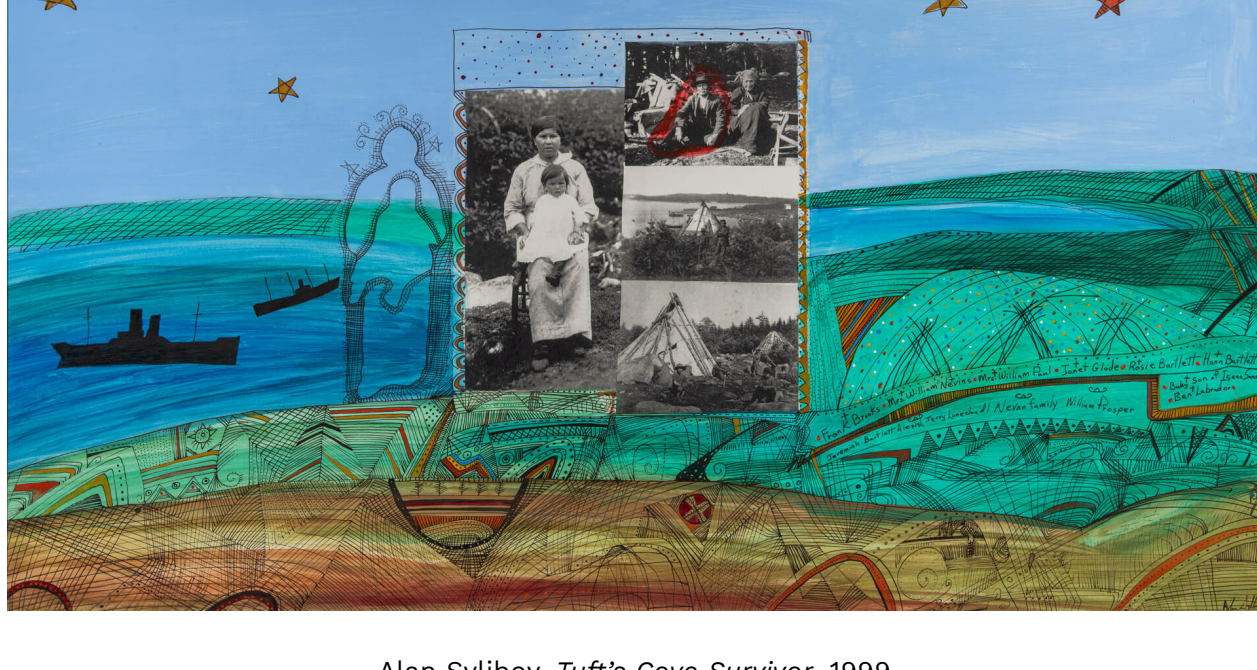
As one of Canada's oldest settlements, and a centre for Indigenous communities since time immemorial, Halifax has amassed a rich visual history. The city's unique landscape has been a draw for generations of artists, who have recorded their experiences of Nova Scotia's capital with diverse making practices, creating both a thriving art scene and a vibrant tapestry of story and memory. Exploring the works of Halifax creators—from Mi'kmaw petroglyphs to contemporary works by Tom Forrestall (1936–2024), Alan Syliboy (b.1952), and Sylvia D. Hamilton—ACI's latest educational guide encourages student reflection on the many ways to interpret representations of the past. This month's newsletter highlights the classroom activities shared in our newest resource, which we hope will inspire important conversations about how stories and experiences become history.

[Download the Teacher Resource Guide](#)

— The Art Canada Institute Education Team

## AVENUES TO EXPLORE

## Creativity Across Time



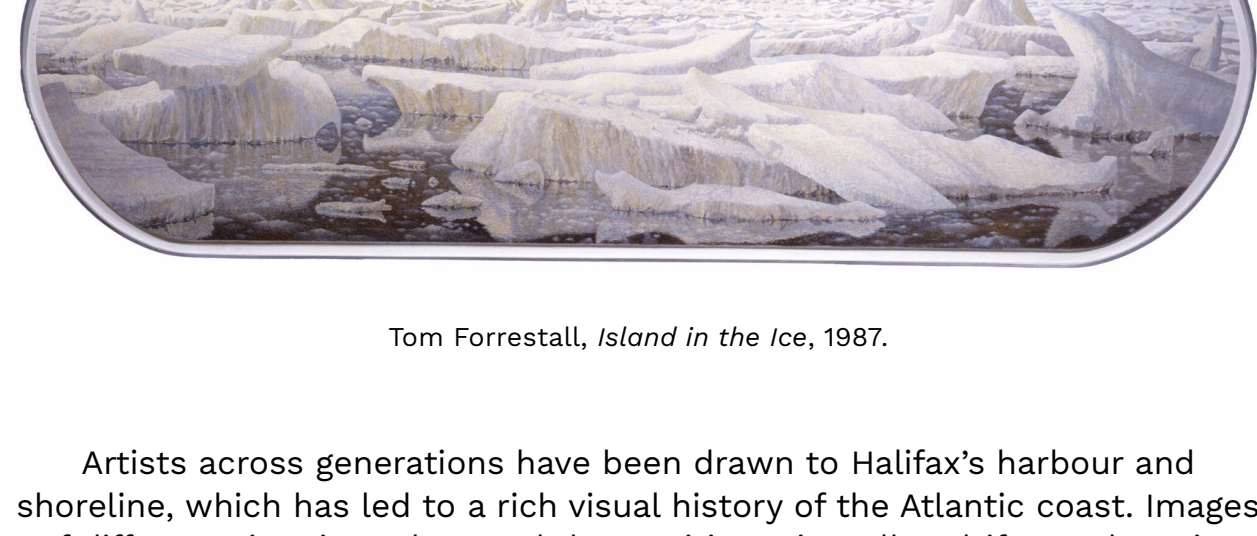
Alan Syliboy, *Tuft's Cove Survivor*, 1999.

For generations, Mi'kmaw artists and artisans made objects and images that would be considered art today. Petroglyphs, or drawings etched into stone, are an example of Mi'kmaw creativity, and over five hundred are known to exist in various sites around Nova Scotia's Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site. Centuries after they were created, these petroglyphs continue to inspire and create meaning, as they do for contemporary artist Alan Syliboy. Works like *Tuft's Cove Survivor* demonstrate Syliboy's use of Mi'kmaq symbols to explore his identity, heritage, and community, prompting students to consider how their own symbols of significance might spark creativity across millennia.

Learn more about Alan Syliboy in

[Halifax Art & Artists: An Illustrated History by Ray Cronin](#)

## Looking at Landscapes



Tom Forrestall, *Island in the Ice*, 1987.

Artists across generations have been drawn to Halifax's harbour and shoreline, which has led to a rich visual history of the Atlantic coast. Images of different sites in and around the maritime city tell multifaceted stories about what the land has endured. Painter Tom Forrestall is known for his unique take on the landscape tradition, creating fascinating works like the one above, which records the effects of an extreme weather event on the city's famous harbour. Through Forrestall's work, students can learn how to apply different critical lenses and practices of close-looking to interpret multiple historical meanings.

Learn more about Tom Forrestall in

[Halifax Art & Artists: An Illustrated History by Ray Cronin](#)

## Documenting Your History



Sylvia D. Hamilton, still from the film *Black Mother Black Daughter*, 1989.

Halifax's multifaceted history is due in large part to the incredible creativity of the artists and makers who have dedicated their efforts to preserving their perspectives, communities, and ideas. Filmmaker and documentarian Sylvia D. Hamilton is one such artist who skillfully captures the region's untold stories through acclaimed films like *Black Mother Black Daughter*, which spotlights the lives and intergenerational experiences of black women in Nova Scotia. Hamilton's work is a compelling entry point for students to explore how they might document the cultural knowledge, events, and stories that inform their own lives.

Learn more about Sylvia D. Hamilton in

[Halifax Art & Artists: An Illustrated History by Ray Cronin](#)

As a bilingual organization, we are proud to offer our materials in both French and English, including this newsletter. Use the sign up links below to receive emails in your preferred language.

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Art Canada Institute

Launched in 2013, the Art Canada Institute is the only national institution whose mandate is to promote the study of an inclusive multi-vocal Canadian art history to as broad an audience as possible, in both English and French, within Canada and internationally. The ACI works with more than fifty of Canada's leading art historians, curators, and visual culture experts who are dedicated to the creation of authoritative original content on the people, themes, and topics that have defined Canadian art history.

We are creating a central digital resource to tell the world about Canada's most important works of art and where they are located. By functioning as an online art museum, a [digital library](#), and an interactive Canadian art encyclopedia, the ACI is an indispensable resource on Canada's visual heritage.

Visit us at [aci-iac.ca](http://aci-iac.ca)

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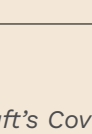
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