

Jennifer Lee Wiebe to found *Eastern Dispatches*, a critical review of arts in the Maritimes

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Local artist and writer Jennifer Lee Wiebe plans to use her residence with the Fredericton Alliance to do something entirely different: found a journal.

Her project during her residence, from August 23-29, will be to establish EasternDispatches.com, a website for critical reviews of the arts in the Maritimes and New England.

At the outset, Wiebe will be the website's writer and editor. "I feel strongly that there is a dearth of critical writing and review opportunities in our region, and I would like to address that," she says. "The virtual platform will include writing and also links to artist's social media where the sharing of artwork and praxis may be viewed and experienced by the viewer."

The artist will host live discussions of the artwork she will be covering. The profiled artists will be invited to join the livestreams and to participate in a Q&A. Discussions will be hosted on Zoom, and the links shared on the FAA's social media pages.

"The artist(s) I will be profiling will each have their own individual stories about making work in this time of isolation, social distancing, and virtual representation," Wiebe says. "COVID19 is the current context for all content generated for Eastern Dispatches. The circumstances due to this pandemic with many of our experiences ported to digital platforms is the reason I came up with this idea for critical arts writing."

In her previous work, Wiebe has explored themes of national identity, language as privilege, and the concept of currency through the lens of her dual citizenship in the United States and Canada.

Wiebe's residency will be covered on the Fredericton Arts Alliance's social media pages. Interested art fans should follow the Fredericton Arts Alliance Facebook page, @FrederictonArts on Twitter, and @fredartsalliance on Instagram.

Look forward to even more media being explored throughout the summer, including pottery, collage, mask making, painting, and textile art.

Thanks in part to a grant from the City of Fredericton, artists are paid an honorarium.

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