

Isolation 2020 connects Ottawa visual artists with gallery-goers, virtually



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Eleven artists based in Ottawa, Montreal, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick will be featured in Isolation 2020, a virtual art show launching Wednesday that will showcase works created during the last two months' pandemic lockdown.

The project at isolation-2020.com, which will run until May 22, is another effort during the COVID-19 crisis by visual artists, musicians and other performers to replace their in-person interactions with art lovers with online outreach as they search for audiences and revenue.

Isolation 2020 will feature three recent works for sale from each artist. The Ottawa artists involved are Christopher Griffin, Emmet Woulfe, and Joejene Santos.

"Working in isolation is nothing new for artists. We thrive on it," Griffin, a painter and sculptor, said in a release.

"But at some point, we need to show the work and have people respond to it," Griffin said. "In our current circumstances, that is going to be hard to do. So online events like this give us a chance to present work done in an extraordinary and disruptive time and see how people react."

All of the artists will take part in an event-opening reception at 5:30 p.m. using the Zoom teleconferencing platform. The website will also allow the artists to give virtual video tours of their studios.

The artists will also give one-quarter of their sales to food banks in their communities, in recognition of the hardships the pandemic has caused for low-income persons. The Ottawa artists will contribute to the Parkdale Food Centre.