



Meaghan Tardif-Bennett, *Rippled Regards*, 2015,
cotton and velvet fabric resist-dyed with reactive dyes.

“...You would wake up with a kiss and an inhale, the sun loving your skin almost as much as it loves the water, almost as much as me. Until I can hold you like home again under one roof, the sunset is our kitchen clock, the shore our floorboards, and the water our bed...”

—Meaghan Tardif-Bennett

Meaghan Tardif-Bennett, a fourth-year Fibre Arts major at Concordia University, is an interdisciplinary artist who has worked in performance and painting, as well as in graphic design for a year when she studied at the Bauhaus in Germany. She currently works as the assistant to the program co-coordinator of Fibre Arts. Tardif-Bennett is interested in conceptually exploring relationships with people and time in her art. She enjoys the slow, tedious process of working with her medium. Family is a recurring theme in the artist’s practice, serving as a cathartic means of understanding and coping with a traumatic past.

Inspired by Eugène Isabey’s (1803–1886) *After the Duel* (1875), Tardif-Bennett sought to reflect on how family trauma impelled her to find an alternative family in her friends and her partner. Assembled from patches of dyed fabric, *Rippled Regards* (2015) is a quilt to be used in the future home she will share with her partner. The colourful tie-dyed patches, which spread horizontally across the top and bottom edges of the quilt and vertically through its centre, were inspired by a picture of a sunset taken where her partner currently lives. The concepts of a long-distance family and of a self-created family are present in her work. Tardif-Bennett’s quilt not only serves as a symbol of family space, but also is intended to have a practical function on the bed of her future home with her partner. The creation of this artwork was tedious and time consuming, but

ultimately a cathartic experience for the artist, as it helped her to attain a sense of calm that is revived whenever she engages with the artwork. Tardif-Bennett's work evokes comfort, safety and a dream-like state. Although stemming from memories of instability and trauma, *Rippled Regards* leaves the viewer feeling protected, as one can easily imagine oneself bundled up in the quilt cover.

Kimberly Glassman