Since the Quad Cities version of Venus Envy began in 2005, it has celebrated women's artistic expression in the visual and performing arts.

Now it aims to let them embarrass themselves.

A new element in the fourth installment of the festival - which is scheduled to be held from 6 to 11 p.m. on Saturday, May 3, at the Bucktown Center for the Arts in downtown Davenport - is an open-mic reading called "Wince."

Held in a fourth-floor private residence in Bucktown, Wince will allow women to read from their adolescent writings - journals, poetry, fiction.

Modeled after the "Cringe" readings (http://www.queserasera.org/cringe.html) that got their start in Brooklyn in 2005, Wince will be MC-ed by local author Leslie Thompson - who will publish her third novel under the name Leslie Langtry in September. (See http://leslielangtry.com for more information.)

[illegible] Dead [illegible] exhibit, the artist's body is