



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Koffler Centre of the Arts Announces Winter 2021 Books & Ideas Series

A series of online literary events highlighting women's histories, decolonial and anti-authoritarian movements, and experimental literature

Toronto, ON, January 28, 2021 – The **Koffler Centre of the Arts** is delighted to announce its Winter 2021 **Books & Ideas** season.

The year-round Books & Ideas series spotlights provocative writers, novelists and thinkers, celebrating literary excellence and fostering critical dialogue through compelling book launches, author talks and in-depth interviews.

This winter, in conjunction with programming across the Koffler's multidisciplinary art streams, Books & Ideas highlights the female voice, women's histories, decolonial and anti-authoritarian movements, and experimental literature, presenting a series of virtual events on our online platform.

"We are thrilled to be able to present three brilliant female writers this season – Tenille K. Campbell, Ann Heberlein, and Larissa Lai," said **Mary Anderson**, the Koffler's **Director, Literary Programs**. "In their unique ways, each author reflects upon the diversity of women's lived experiences, as well as the importance of sharing stories and knowledge through female perspectives. These books bring forth complex issues and will enlighten readers on many levels. I'm looking forward to hearing them speak about their work."

The season opens on **February 17, 2021** with the Canadian launch of **Dr. Ann Heberlein's *On Love and Tyranny: The Life and Politics of Hannah Arendt***, translated by Alice Menzies. In an utterly unique approach to biography, *On Love and Tyranny* traces the life and work of the iconic German Jewish intellectual Hannah Arendt, whose political philosophy and understandings of evil, totalitarianism, love, and exile prove essential amid the rise of the refugee crisis and authoritarian regimes around the world.

American author and cartoonist, **Ken Krimstein** (*The Three Escapes of Hannah Arendt - A Tyranny of Truth*), will host the online conversation.

On **March 10, 2021**, the Koffler presents the launch of Dene/Métis author and photographer **Tenille K. Campbell's** new poetry collection, ***nedí nezu (Good Medicine)***. With a knowing smile, this book side-eyes the political existence and celebrates the lived experience of an Indigenous woman falling in love and lust with those around her – but, most importantly, with herself.

Tenille K. Campbell will join Oji-nehiyaw, Two-Spirit/Indigiqueer author and 2021 Canada Reads Finalist, **Joshua Whitehead** (*Jonny Appleseed*), in a virtual conversation.

The season concludes on **April 1, 2021** with award-winning writer **Larissa Lai** and her new book, ***Iron Goddess of Mercy***. Inspired by the tumultuous history of Hong Kong, from the Japanese and British occupations to the ongoing pro-democracy protests, this long poem interrogates the complicated notion of identity, offering a prism through which the term 'Asian' can be understood to make sense of a complex set of relations.

Larissa Lai will appear in an online conversation with writer, performer, and cultural worker, **Kai Cheng Thom** (*I Hope We Choose Love: A Trans Girl's Notes at the End of the World*).

All events are FREE. Online registration required.

Books & Ideas was launched with the generous support of Dorothy Shoichet & Family and the Estate of Joseph Koenig. Thanks to our generous event patrons and booksellers: Rob and Cheryl McEwen, Peter Lyman and Judith Moses, House of Anansi Press, Arsenal Pulp Press, Ben McNally Books, Another Story Bookshop, Glad Day Bookshop.

Winter 2021 Books & Ideas Event Details:

Dr. Ann Heberlein with Ken Krimstein

Wednesday, February 17, 2021 | 6–7 PM | FREE | Details & Registration: <https://kofflerarts.org/Events/Books-Ideas/Dr-Ann-Heberlein-with-Ken-Krimstein>

Tenille K. Campbell with Joshua Whitehead

Wednesday, March 10, 2021 | 7–8 PM | FREE | Details & Registration: <https://kofflerarts.org/Events/Books-Ideas/Tenille-K-Campb>

Larissa Lai with Kai Cheng Thom

Thursday, April 1, 2021 | 7–8 PM | FREE | Details & Registration: <https://kofflerarts.org/Events/Books-Ideas/Larissa-Lai-with-Kai-Cheng-Thom>

ABOUT THE KOFFLER

The Koffler Centre of the Arts is a cultural platform that explores critical ideas and concerns of our time through a year-round program of exhibitions, publications, performances, literary events, digital initiatives and arts education programs. We examine complex issues through transformative art experiences that stimulate intercultural dialogue and promote social change. Through our in-gallery and off-site programs, the Koffler engages thousands of visitors each year. From school children and teens, to newcomers and seniors, we provide vital opportunities for self-expression and community connection, including to those in greatest need.

As a Jewish organization, we value – and aim to foster – social justice and equality while nurturing a passion for learning and understanding. We position Jewish identity in conversation with diverse perspectives and global voices to examine complex issues in a respectful, constructive way. These principles support the Koffler's engagement with the best contemporary creative minds in producing and presenting art that provides common ground for experiences shaping our shared cultural life and defining our social values.

Visit us online at kofflerarts.org

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