

# koffler gallery

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Koffler Gallery presents the Canadian premiere of *Staring Back at the Sun*, featuring 38 contemporary video artists from Israel**

**Toronto, ON, July 20, 2017** – The **Koffler Gallery** opens its Fall 2017 season with the Canadian premiere of ***Staring Back at the Sun: Video Art from Israel, 1970-2012***. Showcasing the work of 38 artists – including early performances, films and videos never before presented outside of Israel – the project traces the development of contemporary video practice in Israel.

*Staring Back at the Sun* is produced and circulated by **Artis**, and curated by **Ilana Tenenbaum, Sergio Edelsztein, Yael Bartana and Avi Feldman**. **Chen Tamir** is the Organizing Curator.

*Staring Back at the Sun: Video Art from Israel, 1970-2012* highlights work by artists who take an incisive, critical perspective towards the cultural and political landscape in Israel and beyond. Divided into four historic and thematic sections, the exhibition focuses on the activist impulse in video art-making in Israel over the last four decades.

Informed by the international history of video art, *Staring Back at the Sun* traces the development of the medium in Israel and explores how artists have employed technology and material to examine the socio-political status quo, through themes such as the prominence of political conflict in mass media; the liberalization of the economy; and the impact of free market politics on Israeli culture.

Featuring the work of **Boaz Arad, Yossi Atia & Itamar Rose, Yael Bartana, Irit Batsry, Guy Ben Ner, Hila Lulu Lin Farah Kufr Birim, Michael Druks, Benni Efrat, Avraham Eilat, Nir Evron, Yair Garbuz, Gideon Gechtman, Moshe Gershuni, Tamar Getter, Dor Guez, Sigalit Landau, Raffi Lavie, Motti Mizrachi, Avi Mograbi, Michal Naaman, Joshua Neustein, Miri Nishri, Dov Or-Ner, Nira Pereg, Gilad Ratman, Roe Rosen, Buky Schwartz, Ruti Sela & Maayan Amir, Henry Shelesnyak, Ran Slavin, Doron Solomons, Micha Ullman, Rona Yefman, Dan Zakhem, and Nana & Boaz Zonshine**.

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**artis**

*Staring Back at the Sun* is produced and circulated by Artis as an internationally touring exhibition and program (2016-2018). Other presentations include the New Museum (New York), Hauser Wirth & Schimmel (Los Angeles), Towson University Center for the Arts (Baltimore), Casa do Povo (Sao Paulo, Brazil), Zachęta – National Gallery of Art (Warsaw, Poland), and the Tang Museum at Skidmore College (Saratoga Springs, New York).

Artis is an independent non-profit organization that supports contemporary artists from Israel whose work addresses aesthetic, social and political questions that inspire reflection and debate. For more information, visit <http://artis.art/staring-back-at-the-sun/>

*Staring Back at the Sun* is made possible with lead support from The Andy Warhol Foundation. Additional support is provided by The Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund, The Russell Berrie Foundation, Donald Sussman, and Rivka Saker and Uzi Zucker.

For more information and a full list of the Koffler's Fall 2017 programs, please visit [kofflerarts.org](http://kofflerarts.org)

**Regular exhibition hours:** Tuesday to Friday, 12 PM to 6 PM; Saturday and Sunday, 11 AM to 5 PM. Closed Mondays and statutory holidays. Admission is free.

### **ABOUT THE KOFFLER GALLERY**

The Koffler Gallery is a forum for the presentation and development of contemporary visual art that reflects diverse cultural, material and aesthetic perspectives, generating critical discussions around ideas of our time. Featuring a year-round program of exhibitions, publications, public programs and educational initiatives, the Koffler Gallery fosters new production while equally aiming to expand the visibility of existing work by Canadian and international artists. The program positions the contemporary Jewish experience in a context of comparative discussions of identity, memory and place.

The Koffler Gallery gratefully acknowledges the support of the Toronto Arts Council, the Ontario Arts Council, and the Canada Council for the Arts.

### **ABOUT THE KOFFLER CENTRE OF THE ARTS**

The [Koffler Centre of the Arts](#) is a cultural platform that explores critical ideas and concerns of our time through exhibitions, publications, performances, conversations and digital initiatives. We examine complex issues in respectful, constructive discussions that position our Jewish identity in conversation with diverse perspectives and global voices.

The Koffler and its administrative offices are located at Artscape Youngplace, in Toronto's vibrant downtown West Queen West art and design district.

The Koffler Centre of the Arts acknowledges the support of the Koffler Family Foundation, Cultural Season Sponsor CIBC Wood Gundy, the Ontario Arts Council through the Community and Multidisciplinary Arts Organizations Program, our patrons and donors.

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**For further information and high resolution images, contact:**

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