

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Koffler Centre of the Arts set to open its new downtown home at Artscape Youngplace, Toronto

New Koffler Gallery and administrative offices open to the public on November 19 with inaugural exhibition *We're in the Library*

Toronto, ON, October 8, 2013 – The **Koffler Centre of the Arts** is thrilled to announce the opening of its new downtown location at **Artscape Youngplace**, at 180 Shaw Street, just north of Queen Street West in Toronto. The Koffler's 4,600 square foot space on the main floor of Artscape Youngplace will be the new home of its administrative offices and the **Koffler Gallery**.

The Koffler Gallery will open its new space with the inaugural exhibition ***We're in the Library***, featuring seven Toronto artists creating new works engaging the context and history of the new space, formerly the library of the Shaw Street Public School.

Artscape Youngplace and *We're in the Library* open with a public reception and celebration on **Tuesday, November 19, 2013, from 5 to 9 PM.**

Curated by Mona Filip, *We're in the Library* features new works by Toronto artists **Sara Angelucci, Barbara Astman, Adam David Brown, Michelle Gay, Ido Govrin, Vid Ingelevics** and **Jon Sasaki**. Exploring the notion of the school library as a place of exploration, intellectual inquiry, and social interaction, the artists articulate singular ways of engagement with the site's context. With projects ranging from print to sculptural installation, sound, video and new technologies, they revisit childhood literary favourites and cultural icons, revel in the mysteries of encyclopedia illustrations, examine the communication of knowledge, and subvert idealized notions of education.

With its move to Artscape Youngplace, the Koffler Gallery ends an almost 5-year nomadic period of off-site exhibitions around the GTA. Off-site locations included parking lots, bargain emporiums, abandoned houses, ferry docks, city sidewalks, hotels, clothing stores, synagogues, and more. Critically acclaimed Koffler Gallery Off-Site exhibitions included Iris Häussler: *Honest Threads* at Honest Ed's (2009), E.C. Woodley: *Auguststrasse 25* at the Kiever Synagogue (2010), Joshua Neustein: *Margins* at the Royal Ontario Museum (2010), *Graphic Details* at the Gladstone Hotel (2011), *Summer Special* at Honest Ed's (2012), and exhibitions of work by Adi Nes, Lyla Rye, Flavio Trevisan, and Clint Neufeld.

Upcoming Koffler Gallery exhibitions in the new space include **Sigalit Landau: *Moving to Stand Still*** (February 6 to April 6, 2014), a retrospective of Landau's major video works that offer a poetic investigation of the political and environmental realities of her native Israel. Landau represented Israel at the 2011 Venice Biennale. The exhibition is the only North American presentation of an international tour that includes Moscow, Johannesburg, Beer-Sheva, Rome, Gdansk, and Tromso. Solo exhibitions by Vancouver-based **Adad Hannah** (April 24 to June 8, 2014) and Toronto's **Penelope Stewart** (June 26 to August 31, 2014) follow.

Artscape Youngplace is the latest community cultural hub project to be developed and managed by Artscape, Canada's leading practitioner in multi-tenant space development for the arts and culture sector. At 75,000 square feet, Artscape Youngplace will be the largest cultural institution in one of Canada's most creative neighbourhoods. A dynamic community gathering place, housing a diverse mix of creators as well as arts, community, and social mission organizations, Artscape Youngplace will be integral to the cultural fabric of Toronto's downtown core.

Joining the Koffler at Artscape Youngplace are SKETCH, Luminato Festival, Centre for Indigenous Theatre, Paperhouse Studio, Intergalactic Arts Collective, Small World Music Society, and more.

Individual artists with studios at Artscape Youngplace include Barbara Astman, Eve Egoyan, Vid Ingelevics, Miriam Grenville, Heather Nichol, and more.

To coincide with its move downtown, the Koffler has refreshed its brand identity with a new quarterly program and exhibition booklet and a redesigned website, scheduled to launch in early November 2013.

The Koffler's growing repertoire of arts and cultural programs will continue to be available across the GTA, from downtown at Artscape Youngplace to Vaughan. Koffler classes in visual art and ceramics will continue at the Prosserman JCC on Sherman Campus at Bathurst and Sheppard. Koffler multidisciplinary programs - concerts, literary events, artist residencies and more - will continue at various off-site locations across the GTA. The Koffler also programs at the Schwartz/Reisman Centre on the Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Community Campus in Vaughan.

For a full list of the Koffler's fall 2013 programs, please visit www.kofflerarts.org

For more information on Artscape Youngplace, visit torontoartscape.org/artscape-youngplace

Funding to support the outfitting of the new Koffler spaces at Artscape Youngplace has been provided in part through a generous grant from the **Ontario Trillium Foundation**. The Koffler Gallery gratefully acknowledges the support the City of Toronto through the **Toronto Arts Council**, the **Ontario Arts Council** and the **Canada Council for the Arts**.

KOFFLER CENTRE OF THE ARTS

Koffler Centre of the Arts is Canada's only multidisciplinary, contemporary Jewish cultural institution. It has a broad mandate to welcome all and present a wide range of artistic programs, through a global lens, in a distinctly Canadian context.

The Koffler programs around the City of Toronto at several locations. Koffler Gallery exhibitions and related programs and the Koffler's administrative offices are based at Artscape Youngplace, in the vibrant downtown West Queen West art and design district (opening November 2013). Koffler visual art and ceramic classes for all ages are held at the Prosserman JCC on Sherman Campus and at the Schwartz/Reisman Centre on Lebovic Campus in Vaughan. Koffler multidisciplinary programs take place across the GTA at various venues.

Koffler Centre of the Arts acknowledges the support of Cultural Season Sponsor CIBC Wood Gundy, the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the Ontario Arts Council through the Community and Multidisciplinary Arts Organizations Program, our patrons and members. The Koffler Centre of the Arts is an agency of the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto. The Koffler Chamber Orchestra is generously supported by Leslie Dan and Family.

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**For further information, high resolution images,
or to arrange a site visit to Artscape Youngplace, contact:**

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