

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Koffler Gallery presents the first solo retrospective of works in Canada by Israeli multimedia artist Sigalit Landau

Toronto, ON, January 14, 2014 – The **Koffler Gallery** is proud to announce the second exhibition in its new downtown home at **Artscape Youngplace**, 180 Shaw Street, Toronto.

Moving to Stand Still is a solo exhibition by internationally acclaimed Israeli artist **Sigalit Landau**. Curated by Koffler Gallery Director/Curator **Mona Filip**, the exhibition runs from **February 6 to April 6, 2014**, opening with a free public reception on **Thursday, February 6**, from **6 to 9 PM**.

Moving to Stand Still is the only North American stop on a significant international tour that includes presentations in Moscow, Johannesburg, Beer-Sheva, Rome, Gdansk, and Tromsø. The exhibition brings together six major video performance works – shown for the first time in Canada – offering a poetic investigation with global resonance of the political and environmental realities of Landau's native country.

The notion of endless movement in search of a place of belonging and the indelible wound of a traumatic history as well as a disputed present are central themes in Landau's videos.

Barbed Hula (2000) features the artist spinning a barbed wire hoop around her bare waist, her body creating space for itself within the wounding border. In *Day Done* (2007), the painting of a black circle around the window of a dilapidated house in south Tel Aviv creates an ambivalent illusion of a wound or target, referencing a custom meant to remember the biblical destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem.

In *DeadSee* (2005), Landau confronts the ecological consequences of massive agricultural exploitation that leaves both nature and humanity vulnerable in its wake. *Salted Lake* (2011) takes the viewer as witness as a pair of shoes encased in crystalized Dead Sea salt slowly melts the frozen surface of a lake in Poland, one of the most charged sites in the memory of Jewish trauma.

Azkelon (2011) proposes interactive exchange through a children's game of borders on the beach between Gaza, populated mostly by Palestinian refugees, and Ashkelon, established by Jewish immigrants from Arab countries. In *Laces* (2011), a young girl plays a hopeful game underneath a negotiation table while adults discuss potentially serious implications above.

Each one of Landau's video performances contains the offering of a moment of transcendence, the pivotal moment of choice towards an imaginable resolution. Though set up as repeating loops where action endlessly begins and fails in an ostensibly inescapable cycle, the works imply that the solution lies inside the boundaries, not in a breakout. The repetitive, confined movement becomes akin to stillness, summoning transformation from within.

For more information and a full list of the Koffler's winter and spring 2014 programs, please visit kofflerarts.org

Sigalit Landau: *Moving to Stand Still* is generously supported by the **Hal Jackman Foundation**, and **Amira and Michael Dan**.

The Koffler Gallery gratefully acknowledges the support of the City of Toronto through the **Toronto Arts Council**, the **Ontario Arts Council**, and the **Canada Council for the Arts**. 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 Ontario Trillium Foundation is an agency of the Government of Ontario.

SIGALIT LANDAU

Sigalit Landau was born in Jerusalem in 1969 and graduated from Bezalel Academy of Art and Design in 1995. She currently lives and works in Tel Aviv. Landau engages with a diverse range of media – including drawing, sculpture, video, performance, and installation, sometimes creating immersive environments. Her complex works address social, humanitarian and ecological issues, exploring topics such as homelessness, exile, and the relationships between victim and victimizer, between decay and growth. Landau has participated in the 1997 and 2011 Venice Biennale, as well as Documenta X, Kassel, 1997, the Armory Show, New York, 2005, the Art Focus International Biennial of Contemporary Art, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Herzliya, 1994, 1996 and 2005, the Videozone International Biennial of Video Art in Israel, Herzliya, 2002, and Art TLV International Biennial of Contemporary Art, Tel Aviv, 2008 and 2009. She has received numerous awards, including the Ingeborg Bachman Scholarship, 1997, Artist-in-Residence at the Hoffmann Collection, Berlin, 1999, the ArtAngel/Times Commission, London, 2000, IASPIS Artist-in-residence, Stockholm, 2003, the Nathan Gottesdiener Foundation Israeli Art Award, Tel Aviv Museum of Art, 2004, the Beatrice S. Kolliner Award for a Young Israeli Artist, The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, 2004, and the Sandel Family Foundation for Sculpture Award, Tel Aviv Museum of Art, 2007.

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. Koffler visual art and ceramic classes for all ages are held at the Prosserman JCC on Sherman Campus. Koffler multidisciplinary programs take place across the GTA at various venues, including the Schwartz/Reisman Centre in Vaughan.

Koffler Centre of the Arts acknowledges the support of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, Cultural Season Sponsor CIBC Wood Gundy, the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the Ontario Arts Council through the Community and Multidisciplinary Arts Organizations Program, Artscape, our patrons and members.

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

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