



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Koffler Centre of the Arts and Project Bookmark Canada present *The Slow Now*: an immersive urban experience exploring the rich history of a Toronto neighbourhood

Toronto, ON, November 25, 2015 – In an exciting new collaboration, the **Koffler Centre of the Arts** and **Project Bookmark Canada** have commissioned a dynamic digital arts experience that draws on literature, podcasting, the streets of Toronto, and mobile technologies to bring the listener to a new understanding of a seemingly familiar place.

The Slow Now is a free, downloadable audio tour of Toronto's Little Italy neighbourhood that takes **Anne Michaels'** iconic, award-winning novel *Fugitive Pieces* as its foundation, and draws on the rich history of the area.

The audio tour begins at the Bookmark plaque at the corner of College and Manning Streets. The installation is part of a Canadian literary trail created by Project Bookmark Canada, the organization that puts pieces of stories and poems in the exact, Canadian locations where literary scenes take place. This plaque bears a passage from Michaels' novel that takes place in the neighbourhood.

Anne Michaels, who was recently named Toronto's Poet Laureate, gives voice to passages from *Fugitive Pieces* in *The Slow Now* and is joined by **Naomi Skwarna** (writer, journalist, actor) who performs the original narration written by **Mark Mann** (Torontoist, Momus, The Walrus). Weaving in and out of the narration is a delicate and arresting soundscape created using 3D sound. The audio storytelling is augmented by the contribution of visual artist **Braden Labonte**, who designed and installed a window installation in iconic record store Soundscapes as a piece of public art complementing *The Slow Now* audio walk.

The Slow Now was produced by **Angela Shackel** of **Lipstick Studios**. The audio podcast is available for download on [Koffler.Digital](#), the Koffler Centre of the Arts' online platform dedicated to 100% free original arts experiences.

Following the public release of *The Slow Now* on November 8, 2015, it was widely received as an innovative and inspiring way to re-experience our city.

"*The Slow Now* is a lyrical, poetic and immersive experience," says **Jessica Dargo-Caplan**, Director of Public Programs at the Koffler Centre of the Arts. "It beautifully extends from the narrative of *Fugitive Pieces*, while connecting fact and fiction, history and memory, with the here and (slow) now. The way the creative team blends storytelling and soundscapes is exceptional - it transforms the public space of the neighbourhood into a poetic character, while at the same time engaging the public to imagine their own personalized portrait of the neighbourhood."

Project Bookmark Canada would like to thank the Ontario Trillium Foundation for helping to make this project possible. For more information about Project Bookmark Canada and other stops on Canada's literary trail, visit [projectbookmarkcanada.ca](#)

For more information and additional digital arts experiences, visit [koffler.digital](#).

ABOUT KOFFLER.DIGITAL

Koffler.Digital is a platform for 100% free, original digital arts experiences digital arts available 24/7 on your smartphone, tablet, or desktop that uses the vigorous application of art, thought, and imagination on digital medias to explore the ideas that are shaping Toronto. We work to provide a nourishing alternative

to the daily click-bait diet (hey, we like BuzzFeed, too). We work with Toronto's emerging artists, thinkers, and leaders to provide you with the best content, for free, year-round. We prioritize an uncluttered, crisp aesthetic that highlights the content, and let's you explore without distraction.

ABOUT PROJECT BOOKMARK CANADA

Project Bookmark Canada is the only national, site-specific literary exhibit in the world. By placing text from stories and poems in the exact, Canadian locations where literary scenes take place, the organization is building a Canadian literary trail so that citizens and visitors can read their way across the country.

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For further information about *The Slow Now* and high resolution images, contact:

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THE SLOW NOW (an audio walk)

A DOWNLOADABLE POETIC NARRATIVE THROUGH LITTLE ITALY

PRODUCED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PROJECT BOOKMARK CANADA AND ANNE MICHAELS

