

# koffler gallery

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## Artist José Luis Torres to turn Toronto's Koffler Gallery into an immersive, large-scale architectural sculpture

**Toronto, ON, May 10, 2018** – This summer, Argentinian-born, Québec-based artist **José Luis Torres** will create *Question d'adaptation* – a multi-roomed, maze-like sculptural installation within Toronto's **Koffler Gallery**, inviting the public to experience and explore the transformed space.

Running from **June 21 to August 26, 2018**, **José Luis Torres: Question d'adaptation** opens with a free public reception on **Thursday, June 21, 2018** from **6 to 9 PM**. The **Koffler Gallery** is located at **Artscape Youngplace**, 180 Shaw Street, Toronto.

José Luis Torres works with sculpture, installation and public intervention, appropriating spaces and hijacking meaning through simple actions that subvert everyday materials and the conventions of handicraft. Influenced by his experience of displacement, Torres' creative explorations focus on space and place, generating whimsical artworks where spontaneity and accumulation recur in connection to ideas of economy, survival, labour and the ready-made.

At the Koffler Gallery's invitation, Torres will create a site-specific sculptural installation focused on three notions central to the experience of migration: camouflage, reflection and construction. Attempting to blend into the new cultural milieu and to mirror social conventions is a familiar process to newcomers. As assimilation indelibly affects one's sense of identity, layers of individuality risk being chipped away to near invisibility, or reconfigured and rebuilt into ever more complex self-expression.

Metaphorically exploring the adaptation strategies and fluid reinvention of immigrant identity, Torres transforms the exhibition space through material interventions, building an immersive setting that disrupts visitors' expectations. The installation unfolds as an all-encompassing, seemingly endless construction that reflects the state of precariousness and perpetual change intrinsic to the immigrant condition. Cultivating the ways in which coexisting, unplanned elements can modify each other to generate constantly evolving environments, Torres' works enable us to re-examine how we inhabit and adjust to our surroundings.

For more information and a full list of the Koffler's Summer 2018 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 JOSÉ LUIS TORRES**

José Luis Torres was born in Argentina and has been living and working in Québec since 2003. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Visual Arts, a Master's Degree in Sculpture and a degree in Architecture. His work has been showcased in many solo and group exhibitions, as well as public interventions in both Canada and abroad, including Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec (Québec), Human Cities/Places to be (Brussels, Belgium), Museum London (London, ON), The Works Art & Design Festival (Edmonton - Alberta), Manif d'art the Québec City Biennial (Québec), UCCS Gallery of Contemporary Art, (Colorado Springs, USA), Latitude 53 Contemporary Visual Culture (Edmonton, Alberta), X-Border Art Biennial (Rovaniemi, Finland) and CAFKA – Contemporary Art Forum Kitchener and Area (Cambridge, ON), among many others. Torres has also participated in various artist residencies in Canada, Argentina, the United States, Mexico and Europe. More details:

<http://www.joseluisstorres.ca/>

### **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:**

**Tony Hewer**

**Director of Marketing, Communications and Archives**

Koffler Centre of the Arts | Koffler Gallery

180 Shaw Street, Suite 104-105, Toronto M6J 2W5

647.925.0643 x224 | E-MAIL: [thewer@kofflerarts.org](mailto:thewer@kofflerarts.org) | WEB: [kofflerarts.org](http://kofflerarts.org)