

# koffler gallery



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## Seven artists tackle the notion of redaction in ambitious fall exhibition spanning three locations at Artscape Youngplace

Toronto, ON, July 24, 2018 – This fall, the **Koffler Gallery**, in partnership with **Critical Distance Centre for Curators**, presents the sprawling group exhibition *Through lines* at Toronto's **Artscape Youngplace**.

*Through lines* brings together the works of seven artists that challenge notions of *redaction*, tackling its typical devices of shredding, blacking out, editing and covering up.

**Lise Beaudry, Scott Benesiinaabandan, Michèle Pearson Clarke, Leila Fatemi, Maria Hupfield, Raafia Jessa, and Nadia Myre** create works that engage a restorative gesture, speaking to the ways in which history and memory are conceptualized within a contemporary context.

Rather than considering redaction simply as a bureaucratic tool or an outcome of state control, these specific approaches enable new forms of knowledge production and remembering, both politically and personally. Contemplating alternative legibilities that might emerge through redaction, the exhibition highlights the spaces of inquiry revealed through acts of obstruction.

Opening with a free, public reception on **Thursday, September 13, 2018 from 7 to 9 PM**, *Through lines* runs from **September 13 to November 25, 2019**. The exhibition is presented across three locations at Artscape Youngplace: the Koffler Gallery (1st floor), Critical Distance (3rd floor) and the outdoor billboard (on Shaw Street). *Through lines* is guest curated by **Noa Bronstein**.

Scott Benesiinaabandan, Maria Hupfield and Lise Beaudry redact photographs as a way of complicating the image. Benesiinaabandan's *little resistances* (2016) combines family snapshots with media images of recognizable Indigenous resistances. The composite prints are then crumpled and re-photographed in an effort to foreground the complexities connecting family life and communal struggles literally folded into each other. Generating a new work, Hupfield intervenes in her 2007 series *Counterpoint* by felting over parts of the images in order to resist, as she notes, the consumption of the body and of her nation. Beaudry re-configures her personal archive by shredding and reassembling various family photos and, in the process, reframes notions of individual memory and the decisive moment.

Michèle Pearson Clarke and Raafia Jessa both turn to language in their respective projects *All That Is Left Unsaid* (2014) and */lo.kwi:/* (2016). Clarke's video elegy edits together redacted, found footage of Audre Lorde. Both Lorde and Clarke's mother lived with cancer for 14 years and the loss of their wisdom and love is marked by the video's continuously disjointed and unfinished sentences. Jessa's vinyl installation presents 45 symbols that inform a fictitious language. Based on a mixture of Urdu, Persian, Arabic and Latin, the alphabet is illegible yet suggests the possibility of a more empathetic future rooted in universal communication.

Nadia Myre and Leila Fatemi use archival documents as their starting point. Myre's project, *Indian Act* (2002), enlisted over 230 individuals to bead over the 56 pages of the Indian Act, creating a visual evidence of the lingering impact of colonization, unheeded contracts and oppressive politics. Similarly, Fatemi digitally redacts historical photographs taken by the French officer Marc Garanger as part of the colonial project in Algeria during the 1960s. Fatemi's obstructions return some anonymity to the many women forced to unveil for their picture.

In each of these multi-layered projects, redaction performs as an invitation to challenge assumptions and easy readings of images, documents and texts. Honing these parallel perspectives, *Through lines* points to the spaces in-between, where the hidden and obscured becomes as significant as the visible.

For more information and a full list of the Koffler's Fall 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.

#### **ARTIST & CURATOR BIOS & WEBSITES**

Lise Beaudry: <http://www.lisebeaudry.com/>

Scott Benesiinaabandan: <http://www.benesiinaabandan.com/>

Michèle Pearson Clarke: <http://www.michelepearsonclarke.com/>

Leila Fatemi: <http://www.leilafatemi.com/>

Maria Hupfield: <https://mariahupfield.wordpress.com/>

Raafia Jessa: <http://raafiajessa.com/>

Nadia Myre: <http://www.nadiamyre.net/>

Artist and curator bios are also available at: <http://kofflerarts.org/exhibitions/2018/06/08/through-lines/>

#### **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 CRITICAL DISTANCE CENTRE FOR CURATORS**

Part gallery and publisher, part professional association and network, Critical Distance: Centre for Curators is a not-for-profit initiative and space devoted to the support and advancement of curatorial practice and inquiry in Toronto, Canada, and beyond. With a focus on critically engaged, collaborative, and cross-disciplinary practices, underrepresented artists and art forms, and community outreach and education in art and exhibition-making, Critical Distance is an open platform for diverse curatorial perspectives, and a forum for the exchange of ideas on curating and exhibition-making as ways to engage and inform audiences from all walks in life.

<https://criticaldistance.ca/>

#### **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 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.

- 30 -

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

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