

koffler gallery

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Koffler Gallery presents the ambitious group exhibition *Undomesticated*, featuring 24 artists spanning all three floors of Artscape Youngplace

Toronto, ON, August 19, 2019 – This fall, Toronto's **Koffler Gallery** presents *Undomesticated*, featuring the work of 24 artists – the largest exhibition in the gallery's recent history.

Running from **September 18 to November 17, 2019**, *Undomesticated* opens with a free public reception on **Wednesday, September 18, 2019** from **7 to 9 PM**. The **Koffler Gallery** is located at **Artscape Youngplace**, 180 Shaw Street, Toronto.

Undomesticated features the work of **Mary Anne Barkhouse, Gwenaël Bélanger, Katherine Boyer, Sandra Brewster, Hannah Claus, Erika DeFreitas, Julie Favreau, Nicolas Fleming, Iris Häussler, Lucy Howe, Gunilla Josephson, Lewis Kaye, Valerie Kolakis, Carmela Laganse, Heather Nicol, Dainesha Nugent-Palache, Gord Peteran, Birthe Piontek, Yannick Pouliot, Adrienne Spier, Karen Tam, Kevin Yates, Shaheer Zazai, and Shellie Zhang**. The exhibition is curated by Koffler Gallery Director/Curator, **Mona Filip**, with art direction by Toronto artist **Nicolas Fleming**.

Guided by survival instinct, the human impulse to domesticate the environment has transformed landscapes and ecosystems in search of shelter, security and nourishment. With both positive and negative impact, these transformations seek to eradicate or control “the wild” in pursuit of economic as well as psychological benefits. These attitudes toward nature are paralleled in the home environment where domesticating tendencies can fully manifest in a persistent pursuit for comfort and ease.

Undomesticated brings together a range of works by artists who subvert domestic objects and the settings of dwelling spaces, revealing the flawed human attempts at achieving a sense of belonging. Detouring notions of home and domesticity, the exhibition addresses an underlying impossibility to adapt to and conversely tame our environments in order to construct places where our bodies and psyches can fit in.

Engaging with different aspects of the domestic realm and its inherent politics, the artists in *Undomesticated* approach a range of themes and voice diverse critical perspectives. Working in a wide range of media, they transform the everyday to reveal its hidden, unyielding strangeness. Ubiquitous furniture, tools and materials are stripped of their familiarity to access deeper states of engagement.

The exhibition extends from the Koffler Gallery into the public spaces of the entire Artscape Youngplace building, taking over its corridors and stairwells. The presentation and service function of these spaces is disrupted, in conceptual alignment with the project's premise. As art director, artist Nicolas Fleming takes on a multifaceted role as the curator's collaborator and conceptual designer of the exhibition space, reframing the architectural context for the project and staging the artworks in an immersive environment. Working with construction materials and techniques developed in daily work, Fleming diverts the primary functions of commercial building supplies, especially drywall and plaster, blurring the status of these materials and techniques. The architectural structures he meticulously builds undermine the neutrality of the white cube.

As the initial functions of domestic objects are thwarted, the tension between their practical and artistic status generates uncertainty, leading us to hesitate and ponder which behavior to adopt towards the environments encountered. Through intimate investigations of the domestic realm, *Undomesticated* considers the psychological, political and emotional layers that shape our notions of home and belonging.



Undomesticated is generously supported by Lead Exhibition Sponsor, Partners in Art.

Listing Information:

Undomesticated

September 18 – November 17, 2019

Koffler Gallery Artscape Youngplace, 180 Shaw Street, Toronto

Artists: Mary Anne Barkhouse, Gwenaël Bélanger, Katherine Boyer, Sandra Brewster, Hannah Claus, Erika DeFreitas, Julie Favreau, Nicolas Fleming, Iris Häussler, Lucy Howe, Gunilla Josephson, Lewis Kaye, Valerie Kolakis, Carmela Laganse, Heather Nicol, Dainessa Nugent-Palache, Gord Peteran, Birthe Piontek, Yannick Pouliot, Adrienne Spier, Karen Tam, Kevin Yates, Shaheer Zazai, Shellie Zhang

Curator: Mona Filip | Art Director: Nicolas Fleming

Public Programs:

KOFFLER GALLERY FALL OPENING RECEPTION | Wednesday, September 18, 2019 | 7–9 PM | FREE

Regular exhibition hours: Wednesday to Friday, 12 PM to 6 PM; Saturday and Sunday, 11 AM to 5 PM. Closed Mondays, Tuesdays and statutory holidays. Admission is free.

For more information and a full list of the Koffler's Fall 2019 programs, please visit kofflerarts.org

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, promoting ideals of social justice, equality and inclusiveness.

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](http://kofflerarts.org) is a cultural platform that explores critical ideas and concerns of our time through exhibitions, publications, performances, literary events and digital initiatives. We examine complex issues through transformative art experiences that stimulate intercultural dialogue and 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.

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For further information and high resolution images, contact:

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