

koffler gallery

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Koffler Gallery presents Montréal-based painter Leopold Plotek's first survey exhibition spanning five decades of work

Toronto, ON, December 14, 2016 – The **Koffler Gallery** proudly presents the first survey exhibition of Montréal-based painter, **Leopold Plotek**.

Spanning five decades of work, ***No Work, Nor Device, Nor Knowledge, Nor Wisdom*** includes the debut of his most recent paintings alongside pivotal earlier canvases that establish the artist's formal investigations and his intellectual rapport with Sigmund Freud, Melanie Klein and Adrian Stokes. The exhibition is guest curated by independent curator and sound artist, **E.C. Woodley**.

Running from **January 19 to March 19, 2017**, ***No Work, Nor Device, Nor Knowledge, Nor Wisdom*** opens with a free public reception on **Thursday, January 19, 2017 from 6 to 9 PM**. The **Koffler Gallery** is located at **Artscape Youngplace**, 180 Shaw Street, Toronto.

Born in 1948 in Moscow to Jewish parents, Plotek later moved to Warsaw with his father who became an economic attaché to the Polish Embassy in Moscow during the late Stalinist period. Living and working in Montréal since 1960, he has created a substantial body of work that has been extensively exhibited and collected, carving an essential place in Québec's artistic history. Initially a protégé of prominent Plastique artist Yves Gaucher, Plotek became a teacher and major influence himself, forming a new generation of artists who are at the forefront of Canadian painting today, including Allison Katz, Etienne Zack, Martin Golland and Ben Klein.

While staging a picture of Plotek's evolving subject matter and existential world-view, this exhibition foregrounds his drive to forge a studio production of unique works. The discordance of form and genre that Plotek favours and explores invest his oeuvre with a depth and complexity that defies both modernist traditions and contemporary art market pressures.

Plotek's radical, immersive works mine the territories of memory and experience, the subconscious and the intellect, the abstract and the figurative. Positioning pictorial space as a vehicle for both narrative content and emotional exploration, Plotek re-imagines architecture and objects, artists, philosophers and gods, displacing the cultural pantheon onto precarious grounds and offering poignant commentary on the current state of Western civilization, its enduring folly and persistently dark psyche.

For more information and a full list of the Koffler's Winter 2017 programs, please visit 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.

The Koffler Gallery gratefully acknowledges the support of the Toronto Arts Council, the Ontario Arts Council, and the Canada Council for the Arts.

ASSOCIATED PUBLIC PROGRAMS

KOFFLER GALLERY WINTER EXHIBITION OPENING RECEPTION

Thursday, January 19, 2017 | 6–9 PM | FREE | Join us at Artscape Youngplace and be among the first to experience Leopold Plotek: *No Work, Nor Device, Nor Knowledge, Nor Wisdom*.

ARTIST & CURATOR TALK

Sunday, January 22, 2017 | 2 PM | FREE

Artist Leopold Plotek is joined by exhibition curator E.C. Woodley to discuss *No Work, Nor Device, Nor Knowledge, Nor Wisdom*.

ABOUT LEOPOLD PLOTEK

Leopold Plotek was born in Moscow, USSR, in 1948, and emigrated to Canada from Warsaw, Poland in 1960.

He was educated at McGill and at Sir George Williams University, where he was the pupil of Roy Kiyooka and Yves Gaucher, and at the Slade School of Art under William Townsend. He lives and works in Montréal, where he is also Professor of Fine Art at Concordia University.

Since 1976, Plotek's work has been exhibited in 28 solo shows in Toronto and Montréal, most recently at the MacLaren Art Gallery in Barrie, Ontario and at HAN ART Contemporary in Montréal. His work has been featured in numerous group exhibitions over the years, most notably at the National Gallery of Canada's Inaugural Exhibition, at the Musée des beaux-arts de Montréal, and the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal. Currently in preparation are two exhibitions in 2017: the first at Toronto's Koffler Gallery in January 2017, and the second at the Musée d'art contemporain in the fall of the same year.

Plotek's works are held by major public collections including the National Gallery of Canada, the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, the Musée National des beaux-arts du Québec, and the Canada Council. His work can also be found in numerous corporate and private collections.

ABOUT THE KOFFLER CENTRE OF THE ARTS

The [Koffler Centre of the Arts](#) is a Jewish cultural organization that presents a contemporary cross-disciplinary arts program encouraging inquiry and exploration. We promote an inter-cultural dialogue that engages our Jewish identity with diverse perspectives and global voices. The Koffler Gallery and its administrative offices are located at Artscape Youngplace, in Toronto's vibrant downtown West Queen West art and design district.

Koffler Centre of the Arts acknowledges the support of the Koffler Family Foundation, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, 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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