



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Koffler Centre of the Arts Announces Spring 2021 Books & Ideas Series

A series of online literary events that highlight female voices and experimental literature, reflecting upon forgotten histories, intersectionality, personal narratives and self-discovery

Toronto, ON, March 25, 2021 – The **Koffler Centre of the Arts** is delighted to announce its Spring 2021 **Books & Ideas** season.

The year-round Books & Ideas series spotlights provocative writers, novelists and thinkers, celebrating literary excellence and fostering critical dialogue through compelling book launches, author talks and in-depth interviews.

This spring, Books & Ideas continues to highlight female voices and experimental literature, featuring authors and books that reflect upon forgotten histories, intersectionality, personal narratives, and self-discovery. All programs will be presented virtually on the Koffler's online platform.

The season opens on **April 13, 2021** with the launch of Judy Batalion's ***The Light of Days: The Untold Story of Women Resistance Fighters in Hitler's Ghettos***. Powerful and inspiring, *The Light of Days* is an unforgettable true tale of war, the fight for freedom, exceptional bravery, female friendship, and survival in the face of staggering odds. The book features twenty rare, black-and-white archival photographs.

Judy Batalion will join storyteller, broadcaster, host and producer **Garvia Bailey** in a virtual conversation, presented in partnership with **Toronto Public Library**.

On **April 14, 2021**, **Judy Batalion** will also offer a free virtual **writing workshop** on memoir and publishing, sharing insights and advice about writing memoir (both books and essays) with an eye to having work published.

The Books & Ideas series continues on **April 29, 2021** with a spotlight on the new novel ***Book of Wings*** by celebrated Antiguan-Québécoise writer, dervish and oral storyteller, **Tawhida Tanya Evanson**. Tracing a global journey, as a relationship with a lover and travel partner disintegrates, an artist finds herself on a path toward personal discovery and spiritual fulfillment that leads her deep into the North African landscape.

Tawhida Tanya Evanson will join spoken word artist, arts educator and poet **Sheniz Janmohamed** in a virtual conversation, presented in partnership with **Diaspora Dialogues**.

On **May 20, 2021**, Books & Ideas presents American visual artist, writer and curator **Riva Lehrer** and her new book, ***Golem Girl: A Memoir***. Winner of the Barbellion Prize, finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award for Autobiography, and named One of the Best Books of 2020 by Kirkus Reviews, *Golem Girl* is a vividly-told, gloriously illustrated memoir of an artist born with disabilities who searches for freedom and connection in a society afraid of 'strange bodies'.

Riva Lehrer will join award-winning author and filmmaker **Chase Joynt** in an online conversation.

The Books & Ideas spring season concludes on **June 17, 2021** with bilingual Irish writer and Aosda'na member **Doireann Ní Ghríofa** and her award-winning book, ***A Ghost in the Throat***. A kaleidoscopic blend of memoir, autofiction, and literary studies, *A Ghost in the Throat* moves fluidly between past and present, quest and elegy.

Doireann Ní Ghríofa will join Toronto bookseller and *In Her Voice* organizer **Danielle McNally** in an online conversation.

All events are FREE. Online registration required.

Books & Ideas was launched with the generous support of Dorothy Shoichet & Family and the Estate of Joseph Koenig. Thanks to event partners Toronto Public Library and Diaspora Dialogues; to HarperCollins Canada, Véhicule Press, Penguin Random House Canada and Biblioasis; and to booksellers Indigo, A Different Booklist, Glad Day Bookshop and Ben McNally Books.

For full details on all the Koffler's Books & Ideas programs, including both audio and video links to past programs, visit <https://kofflerarts.org/Events/Books-Ideas/>

Spring 2021 Books & Ideas Event Details:

Judy Batalion with Garvia Bailey

Tuesday, April 13, 2021 | 7–8 PM | FREE | Details & Registration: <https://kofflerarts.org/Events/Books-Ideas/Judy-Batalion-with-Garvia-Bailey>

Noon Time Writing Workshop with Judy Batalion: Memoir & Publishing

Wednesday, April 14, 2021, 12–12:45 PM | FREE | Details & Registration: <https://kofflerarts.org/Events/Books-Ideas/Judy-Batalion-with-Garvia-Bailey>

Tawhida Tanya Evanson with Sheniz Janmohamed

Thursday, April 29, 2021 | 7–8 PM | FREE | Details & Registration: <https://kofflerarts.org/Events/Books-Ideas/Tawhida-Tanya-Evanson-with-Sheniz-Janmohamed>

Riva Lehrer with Chase Joynt

Thursday, May 20, 2021 | 7–8 PM | FREE | Details & Registration: <https://kofflerarts.org/Events/Books-Ideas/Riva-Lehrer-with-Chase-Joynt>

Doireann Ní Ghríofa with Danielle McNally

Thursday, June 17, 2021 | 7–8 PM | FREE | Details & Registration: <https://kofflerarts.org/Events/Books-Ideas/Doireann-Ni-Ghriofa-with-Danielle-McNally>

ABOUT THE KOFFLER

The Koffler Centre of the Arts is a cultural platform that explores critical ideas and concerns of our time through a year-round program of exhibitions, publications, performances, literary events, digital initiatives and arts education programs. We examine complex issues through transformative art experiences that stimulate intercultural dialogue and promote social change. Through our in-gallery and off-site programs, the Koffler engages thousands of visitors each year. From school children and teens, to newcomers and seniors, we provide vital opportunities for self-expression and community connection, including to those in greatest need.

As a Jewish organization, we value – and aim to foster – social justice and equality while nurturing a passion for learning and understanding. We position Jewish identity in conversation with diverse perspectives and global voices to examine complex issues in a respectful, constructive way. These principles support the Koffler's engagement with the best contemporary creative minds in producing and presenting art that provides common ground for experiences shaping our shared cultural life and defining our social values.

Visit us online at kofflerarts.org

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