

koffler

centre of the arts

May 8, 2009

As a valued member of the Koffler Centre of the Arts community, I wanted to inform you about a decision that our Board of Directors has made with the support of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

The Koffler Centre of the Arts has been working with independent curator, Kim Simon on an exhibition by Toronto artist Reena Katz, entitled *each hand as they are called*. The exhibition captures the spirit of Kensington market as a vibrant place where multiple cultural histories intersect with personal stories.

Recently, the Koffler Centre of the Arts learned of Reena Katz's public support for and association with Israel Apartheid Week, which rejects the legitimacy of Israel as a Jewish state and promotes historically inaccurate comparisons between contemporary Israel and apartheid South Africa in order to delegitimize Israel.

While the Koffler Centre of the Arts, as a Jewish cultural institution, has a respected history and reputation for developing and presenting artistic works that reflect a diversity of ideas and expressions, it will not support any individual who actively seeks the demise of Israel as a Jewish state. Even though the exhibition itself is not thematically linked to Israel, the existence and wellbeing of Israel remains a core value of the Koffler Centre and as such, the Koffler Centre of the Arts has decided to disassociate itself from the artist and the project.

Any materials for this exhibition carrying the Koffler Centre of the Arts name or logo were produced before the Koffler came to this decision.

The exhibition is scheduled to continue but the Koffler Centre of the Arts will no longer be associated with it or Ms. Katz.

The Koffler Centre of the Arts is deeply committed to developing and presenting works that explore with honesty and truthfulness a full range of artistic expression with special emphasis on Canadian artists, while remaining faithful to its core values.

Please feel free to contact me at 416-636-1880 x 296 or lstarr@kofflerarts.org with any questions or concerns regarding this matter.



Lori Starr,
Executive Director, Koffler Centre of the Arts