

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Koffler Gallery presents *Auguststrasse 25*, a new off-site exhibition by Toronto-based artist E.C. Woodley, April 22 to May 30, 2010**

**Toronto, ON, March 25, 2010** – Koffler Centre of the Arts proudly presents the new off-site exhibition, *Auguststrasse 25*, by Toronto-based artist **E.C. Woodley**. Presented by the Koffler Gallery, the installation is located within the Kiever Synagogue, 25 Bellevue Street, Toronto, and is open from **Thursday, April 22 to May 30, 2010**.

Developed for the Koffler Gallery Off-Site program, *Auguststrasse 25* is the latest in an ongoing series of off-site projects around the city of Toronto. Watch for Koffler Gallery exhibitions in unexpected places over the next few years as the Koffler Centre of the Arts prepares for its brand new arts and cultural centre, anticipated to open on Sherman Campus in 2014.

*Auguststrasse 25* is a multi-media installation engaging the interior of one of the city's oldest synagogues, the Kiever. Recreating a living-room setting typical of a middle-class Jewish home from 1920's Germany inside the historic sanctuary, the project initiates a convergence of past and present, while bringing together the secular, domestic environment and the sacred space of worship.

With ambient sounds and an actor to animate the setting, *Auguststrasse 25* recalls the daily cultural life of a lost past and embodies an intricate dialogue between absence and presence. An elaborate arrangement of radio broadcasts and echoes of the neighbours' activities provide a subtle backdrop for a contemplative performance enacted daily by the resident of a hybrid space between homes, communities and generations.

"The Koffler is thrilled to present the first visual arts solo exhibition for E.C. Woodley, an accomplished Toronto-based sound artist and composer for film and theatre," states **Lori Starr**, Executive Director, Koffler Centre of the Arts and Vice President for Culture, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto. "It is an honour to present Woodley's evocative installation within the Kiever, one of Toronto's oldest shuls and a place that resonates with the history of Toronto's Jewish community," adds Starr.

The title of the exhibition recalls a flourishing Jewish street in pre-Holocaust Berlin, while also evoking the name of Kensington Market's Augusta Avenue. Just around the corner from the Kiever, Kensington was once the hub of Toronto's bustling Jewish market. An imaginary address is thus created at the synagogue's site, symbolically entwining two distinct geographic locations, two spheres of life, and two different moments of time, connected by the thread of Jewish history.

In the contemporary European urban context, traces of an early 20<sup>th</sup> century Jewish past are often found only inside a synagogue, as little else survives of these once vibrant, everyday worlds. The place of worship becomes a site of remembrance, only partly capable of portraying, by proximity, a secular, bourgeois Jewish environment that produced some of the brilliant intellectuals of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The intimate world evoked through the domestic interior represented in *Auguststrasse 25* will temporarily come to life once more, tracing the memory of European Jewish culture before the Shoah into the continuum of Jewish life in Toronto.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Exhibition:** *Auguststrasse 25*, April 22 to May 30, 2010.

**Opening Reception:** Thursday, April 22, 7 – 9 PM

**Artist Talk:** Thursday, April 22, 7:30 PM

**Location:** The Kiever Synagogue, 25 Bellevue Street, Toronto

**Exhibition Hours:** Sunday to Thursday 12–3 PM, 4– 7 PM | Closed Friday, Saturday, statutory and Jewish holidays | Admission is FREE. To book group visits or tours, 416.638.1881 x4270.

## **PUBLIC PROGRAM**

### **Tikkun Leil Shavuot: All-Night Jewish Learning Fest**

**Tuesday, May 18, 6 – 8 PM (Kiever Synagogue) | 9 PM – 5 AM (Miles Nadal JCC) | FREE**

Visit the installation and follow a historic walk from the Kiever to the Miles Nadal JCC for a full night of events inspired by the holiday of Shavuot, including presentations linked to the Koffler Gallery project. For details and more information on other programs: [www.kofflerarts.org](http://www.kofflerarts.org)

### **About the Artist**

E.C. Woodley is an alumnus of the Manhattan School of Music and the Royal Conservatory of Music. He apprenticed in London, England with composer Michael Kamen, writing music and arrangements for Terry Gilliam's film *Brazil*. Recent music work includes film scores for *Rhinoceros Eyes* (2003), which won the Discovery Award at the Toronto International Film Festival; *The Dark Hours* (2005), winner of best film prizes in Edinburgh, New York, Puchon (Korea), Sitges (Spain); *Cleopatra* (2006), by Brazilian director, Julio Bressane; and the omnibus film *Toronto Stories*, which debuted at the 2008 Toronto International Film Festival. As a sound designer and composer for theatre, Woodley worked with two playwrights in particular: 2008 Siminovitch prize finalist Morwyn Brebner, and Random House/Penguin author Jonathan Garfinkel. Other sound and music for the stage includes director Jennifer Tarver's series of five short Samuel Beckett plays, *That Time*, for which Woodley won a Dora Award in 2005. As the creator and host of *The Lost and Found*, a long-running show on Toronto radio station CKLN-FM, Woodley has broadcast his original audio collages monthly for the past several years. E.C. Woodley is based in Toronto and is represented by ICM® International Creative, Los Angeles, CA.

### **About the Koffler Centre of the Arts**

Koffler Centre of the Arts is a Jewish cultural institution with a broad mandate to serve all, and present a wide range of artistic programs through a global lens in a specifically Canadian context. The Koffler's mission is to bring people together through arts and culture to create a more civil and global society. Its unique mix examines the arts across different disciplines and cultures in a way that strengthens identity while encouraging an appreciation of difference. Headquartered just north of Sheppard Avenue at 4588 Bathurst Street in the brand new Prosserman JCC, the Koffler Centre of the Arts features: the Koffler Gallery with changing contemporary exhibitions (currently programming off-site); visual art exhibitions, student exhibitions and more; fully-equipped studios for ceramics, painting and drawing, dance, and music rehearsals; and a variety of other programmatic spaces. The 2010-11 season includes major visual arts exhibitions, artist talks, lectures, film, music, dance, comedy, and literary performances often presented in partnership with other arts organizations. The Koffler presents the annual Helen and Stan Vine Canadian Jewish Book Awards and the Jewish Book Fair as part of its growing literary repertoire along with over 65 classes for all ages as part of the Koffler Schools of Dance, Visual Arts, and Music. Koffler Centre of the Arts is an agency of the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

Planning is underway on a brand new, architecturally innovative Koffler Centre of the Arts on the Sherman Campus, anticipated to open in 2014. In July 2009, the Koffler's administrative offices and all classes opened in the Prosserman JCC on the Sherman Campus. More information at <http://tomorrowcampaign.com>

Koffler Centre of the Arts acknowledges the support of its patrons and members, Cultural Season Sponsor **CIBC Wood Gundy**, Art Aficionado Sponsors **Trinity Development Group** and **Weirfoulds LLP**, and the **UJA Federation of Greater Toronto**. The Koffler Gallery gratefully acknowledges the support the City of Toronto through the **Toronto Arts Council**, the **Ontario Arts Council** and the **Canada Council for the Arts**. Additional support for this exhibition has been generously provided by **Estee Klar-Wolfond** and **Quadrangle Architects Limited**.

### **KOFFLER ON THE ROAD!**

Watch for Koffler programs off-site around Toronto! As we prepare for our new facility to be completed, the Koffler Centre of the Arts is continuing to program exhibitions, events and performances both at our current facilities and at various downtown sites in Toronto. Check our website for details and watch out for Koffler events in **your** neighbourhood!

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### **Media Contact**

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