

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Koffler Centre of the Arts presents an off-site installation by Québec artist Diane Landry organized by the Koffler Gallery at the Beaver Hall Gallery, March 19 to May 3, 2009**

**Toronto, Ontario, February 25, 2009** – The **Koffler Centre of the Arts** proudly presents *The Magic Shield* organized by the Koffler Gallery off-site at Beaver Hall Gallery. The exhibition opens **Thursday, March 19, 2009** at 7 PM with an artist talk by **Diane Landry** at 7:30 PM. Beaver Hall Gallery is located at **29 McCaul Street, Toronto**.

*The Magic Shield* is the second off-site project for the Koffler Gallery and the first presentation of this recent work by Diane Landry in Toronto. Watch for Koffler Gallery exhibitions in unexpected places all around Toronto over the next three years as the Koffler Centre of the Arts prepares for its brand new 40,000 square foot arts and cultural centre scheduled to open on the Sherman Campus in 2012.

Over the past twenty years, Québec artist Diane Landry has produced a body of playful works inspired by the insignificant gestures and objects that make up our daily existence. Conspiring with cultural and popular imagery, she takes pleasure in swinging between the world's reality and an imaginary, poetic world on the edge of the absurd.

A multi-disciplinary artist, Landry creates what she calls "oeuvres nouvelles" – works whose full effect is dependent on the passage of time. Invoking the wonder of childhood fantasy, her kinetic projects captivate viewers, causing them to stop, linger and experience. Landry's installations, sculptures and performances often contain an assortment of ordinary recycled and mass-produced objects drawn from our everyday world: teacups, colanders, coffee pots, skates, die-cast toys. Employing subtle combinations of sound, delicate movement, soft light and moving shadow to transform these ordinary things into unpredictable, seemingly organic entities, she participates in recovering the attendant meaning our material culture lost through mass manufacture.

In *The Magic Shield*, two futons covered with white crumpled paper are animated and transformed by different mechanisms and objects placed underneath. One of them stirs as countless keys sometimes rouse as a set of chimes, while fourteen encyclopedia volumes rotate beneath the other creating the illusion of two bodies tossing and turning under covers. The beds seem to go momentarily from restfulness to wakefulness, from object to event, creating a dream-like atmosphere. Enhanced by the dramatic play of light and shadow, the different elements explore the contrast between what is perceived on the surface of things and what can be discovered lurking beneath, between rational and intuitive comprehension.

Complementing the three-dimensional installation, the video piece *The Lost Shield* brings in the human representation, reflecting Landry's attempt to mix the notions of performance and installation. By drawing attention to neglected aspects of experience, so quickly erased from consciousness, Landry simultaneously alludes to more profound issues of life and death. Offering different screens of perception, her multi-media works invite the viewer to cross to the other side of the looking glass.

**Diane Landry** lives and works in Québec City. Since 1987, her works have travelled widely across Canada and in major cities in the USA, Mexico, Argentina, many European countries, Australia and China. Her works have been discussed in numerous publications and recognized by important awards in Québec as well as in the United States. She is the first recipient of the prestigious Giverny Capital Prize, a distinction awarded to a visual artist from Québec. She has been an artist in residence in many centres in Canada, the USA, France, Italy and Argentina. She has just completed a six-month stay in the Studio du Québec in New York, sponsored by the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec. Diane Landry holds a MA from Stanford University, California and is represented by SolwayJones Gallery in Los Angeles.

The Koffler Gallery of the Koffler Centre of the Arts gratefully acknowledges the support of its patrons and members, Cultural Season Sponsor **CIBC Wood Gundy**, the **UJA Federation of Greater Toronto**, the City of Toronto through the **Toronto Arts Council**, the **Ontario Arts Council** and the **Canada Council for the Arts**.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**Exhibition:** Diane Landry, *The Magic Shield*, March 19 – May 3, 2009, FREE.

**Opening Reception:** Thursday, March 19, 7 – 9 PM, FREE.

**Artist Talk:** Thursday, March 19, 7:30 PM, FREE.

**Location:** The exhibition is located at the Beaver Hall Gallery, 29 McCaul Street, just north of Queen Street West. The closest subway stations are St. Patrick Station (Dundas and St. Patrick) or Osgoode Station (University and Queen).

**Hours:** Tuesday to Sunday 11 AM – 6 PM; Wednesday open late until 8 PM; Friday closed early at 3 PM; Closed Mondays, statutory and Jewish holidays. Admission is FREE.

**Tour:** Free guided bus tour from Beaver Hall Gallery to Blackwood Gallery, AGYU and Doris McCarthy Gallery: Sunday, April 26, 2009, 12 – 5 PM. RSVP 416-736-2100 x44021.

### About the Koffler Centre of the Arts

Koffler Centre of the Arts brings people together through arts and culture to create a more civil, global society. By examining the arts across disciplines and cultures, the Koffler strengthens identity and community while fostering an appreciation of difference. Currently housed at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre near Sheppard Avenue and convenient public transportation, the Koffler Centre of the Arts features: the Koffler Gallery with changing contemporary exhibitions; the Loggia Gallery with photography exhibitions, student exhibitions, and more; fully-equipped studios for ceramics, stone-carving (the only studio in Toronto using pneumatic tools), painting and drawing, dance, and music rehearsals; and the Leah Posluns Theatre. The 2008-2009 season includes major visual arts exhibitions, artist talks, lectures, film, music, dance, 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 supported by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and its season sponsor, CIBC Wood Gundy.

Construction is underway on a brand new 40,000 square foot, architecturally innovative Koffler Centre of the Arts on the present site soon to be known as the Sherman Campus. More information at <http://tomorrowcampaign.com>

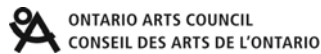
### KOFFLER ON THE ROAD!

Watch for Koffler on the road! As we prepare for our new facility to be completed in 2012, 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

Tony Hewer, Head of Communications and Marketing  
Koffler Centre of the Arts  
4588 Bathurst Street | Toronto | ON | M2R 1W6  
t: 416.636.1880 x 228 | f: 416.636.5813  
e: [thewer@kofflerarts.org](mailto:thewer@kofflerarts.org) | w: [www.kofflerarts.org](http://www.kofflerarts.org)



BEAVER HALL GALLERY

