

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Koffler Gallery presents *MIXEDFIT*, a new off-site group exhibition featuring works on T-shirts at Balisi stores, September 21 to November 28, 2010

Toronto, ON, September 2, 2010 – Koffler Centre of the Arts proudly presents **MIXEDFIT**, a new off-site exhibition featuring the works of five Canadian and international artists silkscreened onto T-shirts. Presented by the Koffler Gallery, this unique exhibition is presented at four **Balisi** stores across Toronto from **September 21 to November 28, 2010**.

The exhibition will open with a free reception and a fashion show featuring local celebrities wearing the artist T-shirts on **Tuesday, September 21, 7 – 9 PM**, at Balisi, 711 Queen Street West. All artist T-shirts are for sale. **MIXEDFIT** is presented in conjunction with **Printopolis: International Symposium on Printmaking**, organized by Canada's leading printmaking centre, Open Studio, in celebration of its 40th Anniversary.

Developed for the Koffler Gallery Off-Site program, **MIXEDFIT** is the latest in an ongoing series of 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.

Bearing a written message, an iconic image, a familiar or an eccentric brand, the T-shirt makes a statement, expressing individual choice in creating a personal image. As a basic clothing item, it has become one of the most ubiquitous identity-defining elements. **Millie Chen, Emelie Chhangur, Hannah Claus, Stefan Hoffmann** and **Dan Perjovschi** were invited by the Koffler Gallery to explore notions of displacement between cultures and identities, designing limited edition silkscreened T-shirts to be disseminated through several Toronto stores. The five artists engage with issues of race, gender, immigration and social justice, each examining the T-shirt as a medium for communication.

Based in Ridgeway, Ontario, **Millie Chen** delves into her Chinese heritage, reinterpreting the motifs of Chinoiserie wallpaper and disrupting the fictional Chinese idyllic scenes as projections of European desire.

With a text-based T-shirt design, Toronto artist **Emelie Chhangur** addresses inter-racial relationships and the history of discrimination practiced against those of mixed racial identity.

Montreal artist **Hannah Claus** manipulates decorative and biological patterns to explore the intersection of her two cultural identities, Mohawk and European-Canadian, searching for a new language that reveals a poignant absence.

Romanian artist **Dan Perjovschi**, who gained international recognition for his shrewd political cartoons that explore global events, contributes a T-shirt that comments on the immigrant condition and the inherent dislocation of individual identity.

Rotterdam-based **Stefan Hoffmann** is the featured artist invited by Open Studio in conjunction with Printopolis. Hoffman creates work that ranges from site-specific wall and window interventions to object-based multiples, using silkscreen to layer images drawn from pictograms, urban signage, medical illustrations, and old heraldry books with visual elements derived on location.

In a public event at Balisi on Queen Street West coinciding with **Scotiabank Nuit Blanche 2010**, Hoffmann will transfer his images to T-shirts brought in by the public. Creating an original piece for each participant, the artist re-emphasizes the democratic essence of this popular clothing item. In addition, Hoffmann will intervene on the storefront window and walls, developing imagery derived from the local urban context to highlight the **MIXEDFIT** project.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Exhibition: *MIXEDFIT*, September 21 – November 28, 2010, FREE

Opening Reception: Tuesday, September 21, 7 – 9 PM, FREE

Fashion Show with MC Bill Clark: Tuesday, September 21, 7: 30 PM, FREE

Location and Hours

Balisi, 711 Queen Street West. Hours: Sunday 11 AM – 6 PM | Monday – Thursday 11 AM – 9 PM | Friday and Saturday 10 AM – 9 PM

Balisi, 668 College Street. Hours: Sunday 11 AM – 6 PM | Monday – Saturday 10 AM – 9 PM

Balisi, 439 Danforth Avenue. Hours: Sunday 11 AM – 6 PM | Monday – Saturday 10 AM – 9 PM

Balisi, 2507 Yonge Street. Hours: Sunday 11 AM – 6 PM | Monday – Thursday 10 AM – 8 PM | Friday and Saturday 10 AM – 9 PM

For more information on Balisi: 416.203.2388 | www.balisi.com

FREE CONTEMPORARY ART BUS TOUR

Sunday, October 17, 11:30 AM – 5:30 PM | Tour the Koffler Gallery Off-Site project (711 Queen St. W) then visit the Blackwood Gallery, AGYU, Doris McCarthy Gallery, Justina M. Barnicke Gallery and the University of Toronto Arts Centre. RSVP: 905.828.3789 or blackwood.gallery@utoronto.ca

LATE NIGHT T-TIME

Saturday, October 2, 8 PM – 3 AM | Balisi, 711 Queen St W | Coinciding with this year's **Scotiabank Nuit Blanche**, Rotterdam-based artist Stefan Hoffmann makes art on the spot with on-site screen printing into the night. Bring a T-shirt and have it transformed into your very own wearable work of art!

ONE WORLD, DOUBLE TAKE

Sunday, November 14 | A panel moderated by scholar-in-residence **David Shneer** looks at cultures and creators who cross boundaries – geographic, societal and artistic. Full details on our website.

About the Artists

Full artist bios are posted on our website: www.kofflerarts.org/Whats-On/Event-Detail/?recordid=140

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** 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**.

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!

Media Contact

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