

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Koffler Gallery presents *Swing Stage*, a new site-specific installation at Olga Korper Gallery by Toronto artist Lyla Rye

Toronto, ON, June 27, 2011 – Koffler Gallery is proud to present ***Swing Stage***, a new site-specific installation by Toronto artist **Lyla Rye**. The exhibition is presented off-site at **Olga Korper Gallery** from **July 14 to August 20, 2011** and opens with a free reception and summer party on **Thursday, July 14, 6 – 9 PM**.

Presented as part of the Koffler Gallery Off-Site program, *Swing Stage* 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 on Sherman Campus.

Swing Stage explores the architecture of the Olga Korper Gallery and the history of the Morrow complex where it is located. Built in the 1890s, the building functioned initially as a foundry. The metal trusses supporting the roof are one of the most striking features of the space, hearkening back to the industrial revolution. They are both urban vestiges and beautiful yet intangible structural elements, out of the visitor's reach. A sense of distance, both temporal and spatial, is associated with them. Using optical inversions and theatrical tactics, Lyla Rye's installation attempts to overcome this distance, enfolding the viewer within a sculptural environment that re-imagines the historic roof structure.

A suspended platform hovers just above the floor, suggesting the layers of usage and change of the space over time. Attached with chains from the trusses and replicating their configuration, the platform is low enough for viewers to step on and experience the perspective. The dark, reflective surface mirrors the ceiling above, creating the appearance of a recessed void rather than a raised stage and producing a subtle disorientation. A circular screen displays a video projection that references the view out of the round window atop the eastern gallery wall, spanning a 1930s rendering of the building, footage recorded on site, and a Google Earth model view of the neighbourhood.

Both through its title and design, *Swing Stage* alludes to the suspended scaffolds used for construction or maintenance on the exterior of high rise buildings and their transitory and unstable nature. It also hints at the fundamental idea of the stage as a site where the temporary suspension of disbelief can occur. Only within such an imagined space can a view that extends over space and through time be conjured up, offering a thoughtful investigation of the continuous change that drives the life of a city.

For artist bio and more details, please visit: www.kofflerarts.org

GENERAL INFORMATION

Exhibition: Lyla Rye: *Swing Stage*, July 14 to August 20, 2011, FREE

Opening Reception: Thursday, July 14, 2011, 6 – 9 PM, FREE

Artist Talk: Thursday, July 14, 7 PM, FREE

Location: Olga Korper Gallery, 17 Morrow Avenue, Toronto

Hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 10 AM – 6 PM

About the Koffler Centre of the Arts

Koffler Centre of the Arts is Canada's only cutting-edge contemporary, multidisciplinary Jewish cultural institution. It has 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 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. 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**, Print Media Partner **National Post**, 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**. *Swing Stage* is generously supported by **Dekla**.

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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