

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Koffler Centre of the Arts presents ARTFUL DISH – a gala evening of cultural luminaries and chefs from across Canada on June 4, 2009

TORONTO, May 6, 2009 – **Koffler Centre of the Arts** is thrilled to announce the next generation of arts and culture gala fundraiser events: **ARTFUL DISH**. On **Thursday, June 4, 2009, 7 PM**, at one of eight distinguished tables, in one of eight fabulous private homes, guests will be engaged by world class cultural luminaries and fêted by leading chefs from across Canada under the direction of **Michael Stadtländer**, one of the world's most accomplished chefs.

Guests will arrive at one of eight private homes, each with a cultural luminary and one of Canada's leading chefs, and will enjoy an evening of tantalizing food, fine wines and provocative conversation.

"The calibre of cultural luminaries we have assembled for ARTFUL DISH is astounding," states **Lori Starr**, Executive Director, Koffler Centre of the Arts and Vice President for Culture, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto. "Such an evening – never before seen in Toronto – is a unique opportunity for guests to dine in an intimate setting with renowned celebrities of the art world and dialogue about their lives and impact on arts and culture. It is an event that directly reflects the mission of the Koffler Centre of the Arts and it is one we are proud to call our own."

"The Koffler is absolutely thrilled to present ARTFUL DISH, a new venture for the Koffler and one we think will set the standard for fundraising events" adds **Tiana Koffler Boyman**, Co-Chair of ARTFUL DISH and Chair of the Koffler Centre of the Arts Board of Directors. "We are extremely grateful to our wonderful dinner hosts for opening their homes to our generous guests, and honoured luminaries and chefs."

Confirmed luminaries for ARTFUL DISH include:

- **Margaret Atwood**, Booker Prize- and Governor General Award-winning author
- **Theodore Bikel**, Academy Award- and Tony Award-nominated actor and singer
- **Edward Burtynsky**, Photographer and artist, subject of the film *Manufactured Landscapes*
- **Norman Jewison**, Academy Award-nominated film director, producer, actor
- **Bruce Mau**, Designer and founder of Institute without Boundaries
- **Sarah Polley**, Genie Award-winning director, actress and Academy Award-nominated screenwriter
- **John Ralston Saul**, Governor General Award-winning author and essayist

Confirmed chefs include:

- **Michael Stadtländer**, Eigensinn Farm, Singhampton, Ontario
- **Chris Aerni**, The Rossmount Inn, St. Andrews, New Brunswick
- **Jeremy Charles**, Atlantica Restaurant, Portugal Cove-St. Philip's, Newfoundland
- **Ashley Farnell**, Personal Chef, Toronto, Ontario
- **Ross Fraser**, Fraser Cafe, Ottawa, Ontario
- **Ray Lovell**, Master Chef, Nunavut
- **Scott Pohorelic**, River Café, Prince Island Park, Calgary, Alberta
- **Rose Reisman**, Cookbook author and health & lifestyle expert

Media are invited to a press conference featuring luminaries and chefs, to be held on **Thursday, June 4 at 10 AM** at **The Four Seasons Hotel**, 21 Avenue Road. More information will follow.

Tickets for ARTFUL DISH begin at \$1,800 per person and are available now by contacting **Tobi Liederman**, at **416.636.1880 x271**, or tliederman@kofflerarts.org

All proceeds from ARTFUL DISH will benefit the Koffler Centre of the Arts, a multidisciplinary arts and cultural organization with a mission to create a more civil and global society by fostering mutual understanding through the exploration of arts and culture.

Full details on the event, luminary and chef bios are available at www.kofflerarts.org

ARTFUL DISH is generously supported by **CIBC Wood Gundy**, Cultural Season Sponsor of the Koffler Centre of the Arts. Fine wines for the evening have been donated by **Halpern Enterprises**. Additional support is provided by the **Canadian Chefs Congress** and **All-Clad Metalcrafters**.

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. Headquartered just north of Sheppard Avenue at 4588 Bathurst Street and serviced by public transportation, the Koffler Centre of the Arts features: the Koffler Gallery with changing contemporary exhibitions (currently programming off-site); 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 an affiliate of the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

Planning is underway on a brand new 40,000 square foot, architecturally innovative Koffler Centre of the Arts on the Sherman Campus. In July 2009, the Koffler's administrative offices and all classes will open in the new D.H. Gales Family Pavilion of the Prosserman JCC on the Sherman Campus.

More information at <http://tomorrowcampaign.com>

KOFFLER ON THE ROAD!

Watch for Koffler programs off-site around Toronto! 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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