

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Koffler Centre of the Arts' fundraising event The Wrecking Ball a Success**

TORONTO, June 19, 2009 – **Koffler Centre of the Arts** patrons and guests last night said farewell to the current Koffler Gallery space and celebrated an exhibition history of more than 25 years at **The Wrecking Ball**, a fundraiser and art party. Over 300 people attended and the event raised over \$40,000 which will go towards programs and exhibitions of the Koffler Centre of the Arts. The Koffler's exhibitions and performing arts programs will now take place in satellite locations across the city while a new arts facility is being built. The Koffler's classes in visual arts, dance, and music will debut in July 2009 in the new Donald Gales Family Pavilion.

Over 30 artists participated in The Wrecking Ball including: including **Isaac Applebaum, Carmelo Arnoldin, Barbara Astman, Blue Republic, Stephen Cruise, Lynn Fisher, Simon Frank, Karilee Fuglem, Rafael Goldchain, Jacquie Green, Sadko Hadzihasanovic, David Kaufman, Meyer Kirshenblatt, Antonia Lancaster, Michelle Mendlowitz, Hannah Miller, Andrew Moore, Joshua Neustein, Rick Oginz, Charles Pachter, Mircea Popescu, Cyril Reade, Rochelle Rubinstein, Judith Schwartz, Laurie Siegal, Brian Smith, Evan Tapper, Denyse Thomasos, Gideon Tomaschoff, and Akira Yoshikawa.**

"The success of this event speaks to the dedication and hard work of our Koffler community of artists and patrons. The sense of celebration and appreciation for the Koffler's history was palpable and I am grateful to everyone who contributed to this success," said **Lori Starr, Executive Director of the Koffler Centre for the Arts and Vice President for Culture, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.**

The Wrecking Ball comes two weeks after the Koffler Centre of the Arts' successful fundraising event **ARTFUL DISH**, which featured an evening with **Margaret Atwood, Theodore Bikel, Edward Burtynsky, Norman Jewison, Bruce Mau** and **John Ralston Saul**, and dinners by world renowned Chef **Michael Stadtländer** and chefs from across Canada. The event raised over \$230,000.

For more information on Koffler programs, exhibitions and events, please go to [www.kofflerarts.org](http://www.kofflerarts.org)

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

Expressing the spirit and essence of contemporary culture within a Jewish context, the Koffler reflects a global perspective. Headquartered just north of Sheppard Avenue at 4588 Bathurst Street 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, painting and drawing, dance, and music rehearsals; and the Leah Posluns Theatre. The 2009-2010 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 Donald Gales Family Pavilion of the Prosserman JCC on the Sherman Campus. More information at <http://tomorrowcampaign.com>

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### **Media Contact**

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