

koffler gallery

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Koffler Gallery presents the immersive installation *Peter's Proscenium*, the first Canadian exhibition for Raphaël Zarka and Christian Hidaka

Toronto, ON, June 6, 2019 – This summer, Toronto's **Koffler Gallery** presents the work of artists **Raphaël Zarka** and **Christian Hidaka** in the immersive painting and sculptural installation, ***Peter's Proscenium***.

Running from **June 20 to August 18, 2019**, ***Peter's Proscenium*** opens with a free public reception on **Thursday, June 20, 2019** from **7 to 9 PM**. The **Koffler Gallery** is located at **Artscape Youngplace**, 180 Shaw Street, Toronto.

Bringing the work of artists Raphaël Zarka and Christian Hidaka to Toronto for the first time, this major exhibition extends their decade-long dialogue around shared interests in the connected histories of scientific, philosophic and artistic invention.

Referencing science, industry, philosophy and the perpetual human search for new paths of discovery, the work of Paris-based artist Raphaël Zarka relies on the collection and re-contextualization of iconic forms that range from minimal to complex geometries. The point of departure for his artistic production is fundamentally sculptural, within an expanded field that encompasses photography, video and the written essay. Working within existing vocabularies of spaces and volumes, Zarka's artistic process parallels his practice of skateboarding as a re-writing of spaces, repurposing and mining structures as an ecology of critical and contemporary relevance.

Japanese/British artist Christian Hidaka creates imaginary, limitless worlds, drawing upon distinct sets of representational languages. His paintings mediate references that inform the depiction of the pictorial plane: those of the 1480s, of Piero della Francesca and the influence of Euclidean geometry; and others which infer a boundless unfolding of space as in Chinese calligraphic landscapes or 1980's computer games. The intrinsic ambiguity of Hidaka's compositions suggests that whether we roam nature, shopping centres or virtual worlds, we navigate countless, interweaved cultural forms, codes and stories.

For ***Peter's Proscenium***, Hidaka and Zarka consider the gallery as a site of intellectual reflection where ideas and thoughts are distilled, creating a site-specific painting and sculpture installation investigating space and perspective. Inspired by the original architecture of gallery – the repurposed library of a former elementary school – the artists' vision derives from their awareness of a concealed archway and proscenium now hidden by the renovations. These buried vestiges of previous use along with a sustained interest in the visual explorations of Renaissance artist and craftsman Peter Halt inspire an immersive installation that stages the gallery as a space for observation and reflection. Hidaka's murals surround the viewer creating the illusion of endlessness while focusing attention inwards, where Zarka's mysterious sculptural characters offer grounding objects of contemplation.

For more information and a full list of the Koffler's Summer 2019 programs, please visit kofflerarts.org

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

KOFFLER GALLERY SUMMER OPENING RECEPTION | Thursday, June 20, 2019 | 7–9 PM | FREE
ARTIST TALK: Sunday, June 23, 2019 | 2 PM | FREE

Regular exhibition hours: Wednesday to Friday, 12 PM to 6 PM; Saturday and Sunday, 11 AM to 5 PM. Closed Mondays, Tuesdays and statutory holidays. Admission is free.

ABOUT THE KOFFLER GALLERY

The Koffler Gallery is a forum for the presentation and development of contemporary visual art that reflects diverse cultural, material and aesthetic perspectives, generating critical discussions around ideas of our time. Featuring a year-round program of exhibitions, publications, public programs and educational initiatives, the Koffler Gallery fosters new production while equally aiming to expand the visibility of existing work by Canadian and international artists. The program positions the contemporary Jewish experience in a context of comparative discussions of identity, memory and place, promoting ideals of social justice, equality and inclusiveness.

The Koffler Gallery gratefully acknowledges the support of the Toronto Arts Council, the Ontario Arts Council, and the Canada Council for the Arts.

ABOUT THE KOFFLER CENTRE OF THE ARTS

The [Koffler Centre of the Arts](#) is a cultural platform that explores critical ideas and concerns of our time through exhibitions, publications, performances, literary events and digital initiatives. We examine complex issues through transformative art experiences that stimulate intercultural dialogue and position our Jewish identity in conversation with diverse perspectives and global voices. The Koffler Centre of the Arts acknowledges the support of the Koffler Family Foundation, Cultural Season Sponsor CIBC Wood Gundy, the Ontario Arts Council through the Community and Multidisciplinary Arts Organizations Program, our patrons and donors.

- 30 -

For further information and high resolution images, contact:

Tony Hewer | Director of Marketing, Communications and Archives

Koffler Centre of the Arts | Koffler Gallery

180 Shaw Street, Suite 104-105, Toronto M6J 2W5

647.925.0643 x224 | E-MAIL: thewer@kofflerarts.org | WEB: kofflerarts.org