

koffler gallery

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Koffler Gallery presents *Furthest Boundless*, a major new mixed media installation by Nicole Collins

Toronto, ON, December 19, 2017 – The **Koffler Gallery** opens its Winter 2018 season with a major, new mixed media installation by Toronto artist **Nicole Collins**.

Running from **January 18 to March 18, 2017**, *Furthest Boundless* opens with a free public reception on **Thursday, January 18, 2018** from **6 to 9 PM**. The **Koffler Gallery** is located at **Artscape Youngplace**, 180 Shaw Street, Toronto.

Complemented by a series of recent paintings, the immersive installation includes fabric, video and sound, as Collins delves into the emotional territory of loss and explores the human struggle between grief and acceptance, gravity and grace.

Developed for the Koffler Gallery, *Furthest Boundless* is inspired by two concepts of Ancient Greek philosophy: *Aphelion* – the point on the orbit of a celestial body that is furthest from the sun – and *Apeiron* – the boundless, the origin for all that is. At the centre of the installation, a monumental deconstructed painting built out of woven and knotted nets of materials, pigments and wax faces a delicate video that responds with ephemeral movement to its static presence. The immersive environment is completed by an atmospheric sound piece based on traditional shape-note singing.

Driven by an impulse to repair, Collins' visceral paintings attempt to suture, layer and preserve the damaged. This new work further strives to dismantle and reconfigure the painted surface, pushing against the physical limits of materials lifted from stretchers and sculpturally re-envisioned. Engaging the potent vocabulary of the colour black, Collins evokes the accumulation of all colours, the darkest shadows, the burnt remains, the fertile soil, creating poignant works that consider both frailty and resilience. Holes, rips and indentations in the fabrics create permeable layers that disperse yet hold together the whole, materializing absences.

Through painting, video and sound, *Furthest Boundless* articulates a personal response to a universal experience, reflecting a collective search for meaning in loss.

For more information and a full list of the Koffler's Winter 2018 programs, please visit kofflerarts.org

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

ASSOCIATED PUBLIC PROGRAMS

THE SACRED HARP | Sunday, February 25, 2018 | 2 PM | FREE

Join Nicole Collins and the Toronto Shape-Note Singers for an introduction to shape-note singing from The Sacred Harp tradition that inspired the sound element in *Furthest Boundless*. The "sacred harp" is the human voice, which combines in this practice into a four-part a cappella harmony of hymns and anthems, in an inclusive, non-denominational musical event.

CONTEMPORARY ART BUS TOUR | Sunday, March 4, 2018 | 12 – 5 PM | FREE

Tour starts at the Koffler Gallery (at Artscape Youngplace, 180 Shaw Street) and then departs for Art Gallery of Mississauga, AGYU, and Doris McCarthy Gallery, returning to Shaw Street at 5 PM. Seating is limited.

RSVP: march-art-bus.eventbrite.ca

ABOUT NICOLE COLLINS

Nicole Collins has exhibited extensively since 1994, including solo exhibitions at The University of Waterloo Art Gallery (2013), The Art Gallery of Ontario (2013) and The Embassy of Canada in Tokyo (2001) and group exhibitions in Toronto, Hamilton, St. Johns, New York, Miami, London and Zurich. Her work has been featured online and in magazines, newspapers and books including the major survey Abstract Painting in Canada (Roald Nasgaard), the 3rd edition of A Concise History of Canadian Painting (Dennis Reid), Carte Blanche, Volume 2: Painting, and The Donovan Collection Catalogue. Collins is an Assistant Professor in the Drawing & Painting program at the Ontario College of Art & Design University (OCADU) and she lives in Toronto with her husband artist Michael Davidson and their daughter. Collins' work is represented by General Hardware Contemporary in Toronto.

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.

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, conversations and digital initiatives. We examine complex issues in respectful, constructive discussions that position our Jewish identity in conversation with diverse perspectives and global voices.

The Koffler and its administrative offices are located at Artscape Youngplace, in Toronto's vibrant downtown West Queen West art and design district.

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.

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For further information and high resolution images, contact:

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