

DEMAND THE KOFFLER CENTRE OF THE ARTS DIVEST FROM ZIONIST FUNDING

The Palestinian Campaign for the Academic & Cultural Boycott of Israel (PACBI) calls for all artists, cultural workers, and cultural organizations to boycott and/or refuse work with Israel's cultural organizations and lobby groups. As the PACBI [campaign states](#): "Israel overtly uses culture as a form of propaganda to whitewash or justify its regime of occupation, settler-colonialism and apartheid over the Palestinian people." **Following the PACBI directives that have demonstrable success and [material effects](#), to show solidarity with the Palestinian people, and with the goal of ending the violent and horrific Israeli occupation of Palestine—we invite artists, authors, cultural workers, and cultural organizations to boycott the Koffler Centre of the Arts in Toronto, Canada, until the demands of this statement are met.**

While the Koffler has shifted to a [social justice mandate](#), presenting work that is critical of settler colonialism and working with numerous racialized and politicized artists and organizations, this has not been extended to the Palestinian context. This is artwashing, in service of obfuscating its relationships to funders that uphold Israeli apartheid, namely [the United Jewish Appeal \(UJA\) Federation](#).

The UJA Federation [funds Koffler programming](#). It is an international organization that provides social services to the Jewish community and has **explicitly Zionist goals**. The UJA supports [mass immigration to Israel](#). This Zionist strategy affords all Jews the right to Israeli citizenship, while Palestinian refugees are denied the right to return home. As stated on the UJA's website, one of their other objectives is [to aggressively undermine Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions \(BDS\) solidarity activism](#): "In particular, combating the anti-Israel Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) on college and university campuses will be a key focus of our efforts."

The Koffler also has a history of silencing anti-Zionist artists who support Palestine. In 2009, the Koffler publicly dissociated themselves from the Jewish artist Radiodress (Orev Reena Katz), after having worked together on an extensive exhibition for over a year, because the artist expressed anti-Zionist views on their personal Facebook account by endorsing Israeli Apartheid Week. (At the time, the Koffler was an agency of the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.)

The Koffler publicized their statement on cutting ties with the artist to their partners and Jewish community members, essentially ending the exhibition and poisoning the relationships the Jewish artist had with their community. Although the [artist explicitly stated](#) "I have said that I'm an

anti-Zionist Jew," [the Koffler doubled down in its statement](#): "Zionism is the realization of Israel as a Jewish state. When one makes statements calling for the end of Zionism, one is making a statement about the end of Israel as a Jewish state."

In that statement, the Koffler falsely conflates the violent settler colonial ideology of Zionism with the Jewish people's self determination.

A search through the Koffler's forty-four year exhibition history shows only one instance where they presented work by a Palestinian artist, in a group digital publication in 2020. **Other than that one instance, they haven't shown any work by a Palestinian artist, nor any other work that is explicitly critical of Zionism.** For an organization whose [mandate](#) is "to value and foster social justice, equality and inclusivity," the absence of Palestinian narratives within its programming, or of critiques of the Zionist settler colonial movement, sends a clear statement on who deserves justice and equality and who doesn't.

Statement of solidarity:

In solidarity with Palestinians who have called for a boycott of cultural institutions that promote acceptance of Israel's ongoing occupation of Palestine, we the undersigned make a public commitment not to show at, collaborate with, or participate in any events taking place at the Koffler Centre of the Arts.

We will uphold this pledge until the Koffler Centre of the Arts fulfils **all of the following demands**:

- Divests from the UJA and other explicitly Zionist organizations that undermine the Palestinian struggle for freedom
- Acknowledges the ongoing harm caused by its complicity in Zionist artwashing
- Publicly states that it will no longer discriminate against artists with anti-Zionist politics and expresses support for the decolonization of Palestine

In accordance with the guidelines of the Palestinian Campaign for the Academic & Cultural Boycott of Israel (PACBI), we call on artists and cultural workers everywhere to observe this collective refusal.

From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free.

If you would like to add your name to this list, please email: boycottkoffler@gmail.com

Individuals:

Alessandra Abballe	Jana Ghalayini	Isabel Mink
Hiba Abdallah	Julie Gibb	Olia Mishchenko
Terrence Abrahams	Tobin Gibson	Anupa Mistry
Ibrahim Abusitta	Megan Gnanasihamany	Alexis Mitchell
Andrea Actis	Vanessa Godden	Haley Mlotek
Kieran Adams	Nadia Gohar	Maryam Monadi
Julie Agro	Samir Gokhul	Kate Monro
Misbah Ahmed	Mike Goldby	John Monteith
Iain Ailles	Zachary Goldkind	Julie Moon
Saba Akhtar	sue goldstein	Monica Moraru
Mina Akida	Talia Golland	Gabriel Moreau
Ambihai Akilan	Beau Gomez	Peter Morin
Mitchell Akiyama	Alyssa Goodman	Khadijah Morley
asmaa al-issa	Ayumi Goto	Ella Morton
Tina Zafreen Alam	Francisco-Fernando Granados	Bridget Moser
Jahsway Alaniz	Celia Green	Gabrielle Moser
Andrea Vela Alarcón	Claire Greenshaw	Taimaz Moslemian
Noor Alé	Hannah Guinan	Nadia Moss
Mona Ali	Freda Guttman	Olivia Mossuto
Ahmed Alkoka	k.g. Guttman	Soledad Fatima Muñoz
Sami Alwani	Samra Habib	Christian Muñoz Morrison
Yasmin Aly	Amanda Abdel Hadi	Aamna Muzaffar
Basil AlZeri	Lamis Haggag	Zinnia Naqvi
Pardiss Amerian	Greta Hamilton	Alicia Nauta
Faraz Anoushahpour	Maeve Hanna	Petrina Ng
Parastoo Anoushahpour	Zain Ali Haneef	Rana Nazzal
Aeman Ansari	Farheen Haq	Rehab Nazzal
Jade Armstrong	Brileigh Hardcastle	Yasmeen Nematt Alla
Jacqui Arntfield	Melissa Harendorf	Yahn Nemirovsky
Nasim Asgari	Claire Harvie	Robert Nolan
Fady Ashour	Jamelie Hassan	Bahar Noorizadeh
Magdalyn Asimakis	Alison Hendra	Sylvia Nowak
Ghazaleh Avarzamani	Julia Hendrickson	Philip Ocampo

Nedda Baba	Tetyana Herych	Robert Anthony O'Halloran
Shelly Bahl	Nathan Heuvingh	Ananya Ohri
Claudine Baltazar	Emily Hill	Sean O'Neill
Sharlene Bamboat	Eli Hirtle	Sophia Oppel
Marya Bangash	SF Ho	Scott Osborne
Alana Bartol	John Hodgins	Abdi Osman
Emily Barton	Aryen Hoekstra	Aliya Pabani
Christina Battle	Esmé Hogeveen	Andrew James Paterson
Mubashir Baweja	Emily Hogg	Carrie Perreault
Madelyne Beckles	Alexandra Hong	Cleopatria Peterson
Katherine Bell	Madeleine Hope-Fraser	Danica Pinteric
Kat Benedict	sheena hoszko	Cadence Planthara
Vida Beyer	Julian Hou	María-Saroja Ponnambalam
Alyssa Bistonath	Lucy Howe	David Poolman
Sarah-Tai Black	Oliver Husain	Cotey Pope
Susan Blight	Serene Husni	Alison Postma
Catherine Bluemke	Julia Huynh	Leila Pourtavaf
sarah bodri	andi icaza-largaespada	Dana Prieto
Kiera Boulton	Onyeka Igwe	Ali S. Qadeer
Xenia Benivoltski	Karina Iskandarsjah	Radiodress
Yuula Benivoltski	Luis Jacob	Mahshid Rafiei
Ron Benner	Alex Jacobs-Blum	Ashley Raghubir
Adriana Berardini	Jessica Jang	Sadiya Rahman
Jeff Bierk	Edwin Janzen	Dhvani Ramanujam
Nicholas Bierk	Tashnim Jerin	Amrit Randay
Eva Birhanu	Brannavy Jeyasundaram	Chris Randle
Nour Bishouty	Camille Jodoin-Eng	Elise Rasmussen
Patrick Blenkarn	Aisha Sasha John	Em Ratkovsky
Raymond Boisjoly	Joyce Joumaa	Jocelyn Reynolds
Jalil Bokhari	Nomi Juhasz	Heather Rigg
Navaporn Boonmasiri	Kablusiak	Mehrnaz Rohbakhsh
Amanda Boulos	Paul Kajander	Camille Rojas
Rebecca Brewer	Felix Kalmenson	Laura Rojas
Maegan Broadhurst	Maya Kamal	Jamie Ross
B Brookbank	Abedar Kamgari	Daniel Rotsztain

Nicholas Brown	Adrienne Kammerer	Chelsea Rozansky
Valentin Brown	Laurie Kang	Vince Rozario
Vanessa Brown	Nafisa Kaptownwala	Lauren Runions
Jac Renée Bruneau	Jessica Karuhanga	Aseman Sabet
Kristine Buerano	Parker Kay	Melina Sabeti-Mehr
Phu Bui	Nika Khanjani	Sophie Sabet
Hannah Bullock	Luna Khods	jes sachs
Allison Burda	Akbar Khatir	Sona Safaei-Sooreh
Lex Burgoyne	Areum Kim	Arezu Salamzadeh
Bill Burns	Enna Kim	Jayce Salloum
Imani Busby	Natalie King	Daniella Sanader
Andrew Buszchak	Ruilan King	Leah Sandals
Angel Callander	Adam Kinner	Aman Sandhu
Jonathan Carroll	Mary Kirkpatrick	Sarah Sarofim
Jennifer Carvalho	Brendan George Ko	Simon Schlesinger
Rebecca Casalino	Kate Kolberg	Tiffany Schofield
David Caterini	Zahra Komeylian	Seth Sriver
Sajida Chagpar	Jacob Korczynski	Morgan Sears-Williams
Riaz Charania	Matthew Koudys	Lea Rose Sebastianis
Hannia Cheng	Wafa Ktaech	Meera Sethi
Victoria Cheong	Christy Kunitzky	Angela Shackel
Mahdi Chowdhury	Nadia Kurd	Farihah Aliyah Shah
Michelle Cieloszyk	Miyako Kurihashi	Bronte Shamata-Gardner
Michele Pearson Clarke	Kohila Kurunathan	Bhavika Sharma
Miles Collyer	HaeAhn Kwon	Sid Sharp
Katherine Connell	Patrick Kyle	Cason Sharpe
Sarah Couture McPhail	Braden Labonté	Zoe Imani Sharpe
Elora Crawford	Tiziana La Melia	Brittany Shepherd
Andrea Creamer	Christopher Lacroix	Kim Simon
Amina Creighton-Kelly	Jennifer Laflamme	Robin Simpson
Lisa Cristinzo	Lee Lai	Christian Siroyt
Erica Cristobal	Amy Lam	Lisa Deanne Smith
Adrienne Crossman	Tristram Lansdowne	Margaux Smith
Rachel Crummey	Ginette Lapalme	Matt Smith
Patrick Cruz	Lauren Lavery	Lisa Smolkin

Jesse Cumming	Missy LeBlanc	Tabban Soleimani
Thirza Cuthand	Cameron Lee	Florencia Sosa Rey
Kari Cwynar	Jane Lee	Anni Spadafora
Gabi Dao	Katie Lee	Genne Speers
Benjamin de Boer	Su-Ying Lee	Danielle St-Amour
Samuel de Lange	Max Lester	Brian St. Denis
Michael Deforge	Wenting Li	Jessie Stein
Elsa Delage	Chelsey Lichtman	Sean Ross Stewart
Roya DelSol	Oslavia Linares	Erica Stocking
Laura Demers	Erin Logan	Brett Story
Yannick Desranleau	Gareth Long	Hannah Strauss
Sanjit Dhillon	Joni Low	Colette Stubbings
Camila Diaz-Varela	Jamiyla Lowe	Erin Stump
Krish Dineshkumar	Eunice Luk	Rowena Tam
Idil Djafer	Chloë Lum	Swapnaa Tamhane
Pamela Dodds	Morris Lum	Leif Magne Tangen
Ralitsa Doncheva	Alvin Luong	Jordan Tannahill
Petrija Dos Santos	Marvin Luvualu	Shaheer Tarar
Mark Dudiak	Phillip Ly	Erdem Taşdelen
Claudia Edwards	Madeleine Lyчек	Sarah May Taylor
Amelia Ehrhardt	Clara Lynas	Polina Teif
Eshrat Erfanian	Rowan Lynch	Aashna Thakkar
Tammer El-Sheikh	Annie MacDonell	Laura Tibi
Azza El Siddique	Mickey Mackenna	Paul Tjepkema
Rah Eleh	Luke Maddaford	Toleen Touq
Leanne Elizabeth	Hailey Mah	Naty Tremblay
Bishara Elmi	Sameen Mahboubi	Carolyn Tso
Azadeh Elmizadeh	Anna Malla	Diana Lynn VanderMeulen
Danica Evering	Fabien Maltais-Bayda	Indu Vashist
Scott Everingham	Nahed Mansour	Krys Verrall
Serena Lee Everingham	Jenine Marsh	Uma Vespaziani
Shirin Fahimi	Maria Isabel Martinez	Joshua Vettivelu
Fadel Fakhouri	Hugh Mater	Bojana Videkanic
Mitra Fakhrahrافی	Pamila Matharu	Dalbert B. Vilarino
Leila Fatemi	Maddy Mathews	Cathryn Virginia

Holly Fedida	Emerson Maxwell	Justin Seiji Waddell
Megan Feheley	Fraser McCallum	Ellyn Walker
Dallas Fellini	Dan Cardinal McCartney	Ema Walters
Ryan Ferko	Laura McCoy	Dylan Watts
Louie Fermor	Kyle McCrea	Emma Welch
Eva Fernández Ojeda	Jonathan J McCurley	Emma White
Sonya Filman	Robin Alex McDonald	Kate Whiteway
Emily Fitzpatrick	Abby McGuane	Jayne Wilkinson
Genevieve Flavelle	Jesse McKee	Christopher Willes
Brendan Flanagan	Emma McKenna	Jordan Wilson
Pete Florentini	Zephyr McKenna	Amy Wong
Maggie Flynn	Paula McLean	Annie Wong
Juliane Foronda	Chandra Melting Tallow	Joy Wong
Stephanie Fortin	Immony Men	Stephanie Wong Ken
Sylvie Fortin	Chris Mendoza	Chris Worden
Morris Fox	Sonali Menezes	Jacob Wren
Jason Fox	Sofia Mesa	Lina Wu
Kandis Friesen	Phuong Nguyen	Joy Xiang
Sara Funk	Jonathan Middleton	Florence Yee
Marisa Gallemmit	Tricia Middleton	Kendra Yee
Rebecca Garrett	Melody Mikhail	Merna Yousef
Alisa Gayle-Deutsch	Darby Milbrath	Isabel Zaw-Tun
Corinn Gerber	Bria Miller	Shellie Zhang
Nilou Ghaemi	scott miller berry	Alize Zorlutuna
	Alexander Millington	

Institutions and organizations:

Art Metropole, Toronto
Arts Assembly artist-run centre, Toronto, Vancouver
Bunker 2, Toronto

Cassandra Cassandra Gallery, Toronto
CFMDC, Toronto
Chinatown Biennial, Toronto
CUE Art Projects, Toronto
Dead Projects collective, Toronto
Femme Art Review, Toronto
Gendai Gallery, Toronto
Hearth, Toronto
IC Contemporary, Toronto
The Khyber Centre for the Arts, Halifax
ma ma art space, Toronto
Peripheral Review, Toronto
Pumice Raft, Toronto
SAVAC (South Asian Visual Arts Centre), Toronto
shell projects, Toronto
Silverfish Magazine, Toronto
Tamil Archive Project
The Table artist run project space, Toronto
Tea Base Community Arts Space, Toronto
Whippersnapper Gallery, Toronto
Wildseed Centre For Art and Activism, Toronto
Unit 17, Vancouver
Xpace Cultural Centre, Toronto