

Corwyn Lund: *Word Count*

April 25 to June 30, 2013

Presented by the Koffler Gallery Off-Site at Epic Condominium Development Site
48 Abell Street, Toronto

Along south side of construction site, in walkway west of Abell

Curator: Mona Filip

OPENING RECEPTION: Thursday, April 25, 2013, 6 – 9 PM | FREE
Artscape Triangle Gallery, 38 Abell Street



Often integrated into civic spaces, the artworks of Toronto artist Corwyn Lund create dynamic relationships between the body and the built environment. *Word Count*, Lund's latest site-specific project for the Koffler Gallery Off-Site, attempts to memorialize a fleeting moment within Toronto's unrelenting urban redevelopment.

Word Count takes the form of a written proposal, for an unrealized and unrealizable video, that is installed on the hoarding surrounding the Epic Condominium construction site at the core of the West Queen West Triangle. Lund's installation takes a queue from urban development proposals that must be prominently displayed on site, but follows the format and length set out by Canadian art councils for media arts grant applications. In so doing, the project wittily connects the equally bureaucratic sides of artistic and architectural production.

The large-scale text piece mounted on the hoarding describes a proposed video documenting a lone ice-skater gliding across a frozen pond momentarily created by rain and freezing conditions within the excavation pit where the 48 Abell building once stood. Demolished in winter 2012, this former three-story warehouse had served for decades as studios and unsanctioned affordable housing for artists, its redevelopment marking a new era in live/work spaces for Toronto artists.

The ice rink at the heart of Lund's proposal, which materialized as pristine skating surface only for one weekend, was impossible to record on video as the artist planned, due to its ephemeral nature. Reflecting on its relevance in hindsight, the construction-site-as-ice-rink, encircled by newly built condominiums in the heart of Canada's largest city, offered an unexpected poetic reprieve in the course of urban history. The video would have poignantly positioned the unplanned rink as the threshold between the old and new – the open grave of the 48 Abell building and the birthplace of the new construction.

As the video of the *48 Abell Street Ice Rink* could not be realized, Lund resorts to an alternative strategy for sharing this poetic moment. Avoiding the static inadequacy of photographs or drawings, he chooses to translate his vision into words – a process familiar to professional Canadian artists seeking grant funding to realize their ideas in visual or physical form. The durational unfolding of the text being read across the hoarding's extensive length re-invests the written translation of the video with temporality and site-specificity. Wrapped around the site, the installation serves to remember a passing moment in Toronto history, as fleeting as melting ice.

LOCATION: Presented at Epic Condominium Development Site, 48 Abell Street, Toronto
Along south side of construction site, in walkway west of Abell

EXHIBITION HOURS: 24 hrs/day, 7 days/week

CONTEMPORARY ART BUS TOUR: Sunday, April 28, 12 – 4 PM | FREE

Tour starts at the Koffler Gallery Off-Site at Epic Condominium Development, 48 Abell Street, then departs for Blackwood Gallery and Art Gallery of York University (AGYU), returning to Abell Street for 4 PM. Seating is limited. Please RSVP by Friday, April 26, to Juliana Zalucky at 905.828.3789 or j.zalucky@utoronto.ca

The Koffler Gallery gratefully acknowledges the support the City of Toronto through the **Toronto Arts Council**, the **Ontario Arts Council** and the **Canada Council for the Arts**. Special thanks to Urbancorp and Artscape.

About the Koffler Centre of the Arts

Koffler Centre of the Arts is Canada's only multidisciplinary, contemporary Jewish cultural institution. It has a broad mandate to welcome all and present a wide range of artistic programs, through a global lens, in a distinctly Canadian context.

As part of its effort to serve the GTA with its unique brand of arts and culture, the Koffler Centre of the Arts is expanding to Artscape Youngplace in fall 2013. Koffler Gallery exhibitions and related programs will be based at Artscape Youngplace, in the vibrant downtown Queen West art and design district, as the new Koffler building at Bathurst and Sheppard awaits construction. Koffler visual art, ceramic and music classes will continue at the Prosserman JCC on Sherman Campus and at the Schwartz/Reisman Centre on Lebovic Campus in Vaughan. The Koffler also offers family arts programming presented in partnership with The Leo Baeck Day School (South Campus).

Koffler Centre of the Arts acknowledges the support of Cultural Season Sponsor **CIBC Wood Gundy**, the **Ontario Trillium Foundation**, the **Ontario Arts Council** through the Community and Multidisciplinary Arts Organizations Program, our patrons and members. The Koffler Centre of the Arts is an agency of the **UJA Federation of Greater Toronto**.

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Image: Corwyn Lund, 2013, *Word Count* (concept sketch). Billboard paper pasted over existing plywood hoarding.