

E.C. Woodley *Auguststrasse 25*

Presented by the Koffler Gallery Off-Site
at the Kiever Synagogue, 25 Bellevue Avenue | April 22 to May 30, 2010

Opening Reception: Thursday, April 22, 7 – 9 PM | **Artist Talk:** Thursday, April 22, 7:30 PM
Exhibition Hours: Sunday to Thursday 12–3 PM, 4– 7 PM | Closed Friday, Saturday, statutory and Jewish holidays | Admission is FREE.



The Kiever Synagogue. Photo: Robert Burley, 2003

Developed by Toronto artist E.C. Woodley for the Koffler Gallery Off-Site program, *Auguststrasse 25* is a multi-media installation engaging the interior of one of the city's oldest synagogues, the Kiever. Recreating a living-room setting typical of a Jewish home from 1920's Germany inside the historic sanctuary, the project initiates a convergence of past and present, while bringing together the secular, domestic environment and the sacred space of worship.

With ambient sounds and an actor to animate the setting, *Auguststrasse 25* recalls the daily cultural life of a lost past and embodies an intricate dialogue between absence and presence. An elaborate arrangement of radio broadcasts and echoes of the neighbours' activities provide a subtle backdrop for a contemplative performance enacted daily by the resident of a hybrid space between homes, communities and generations. The title of the exhibition recalls a flourishing Jewish street in pre-Holocaust Berlin, while also evoking the name of Kensington Market's Augusta Avenue. Just around the corner from the Kiever, Kensington was once the hub of Toronto's bustling Jewish market. An imaginary address is thus created at the synagogue's site, symbolically entwining two distinct geographic locations, two spheres of life, and two different moments of time, connected by the thread of Jewish history.

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