

Silas Inoue
Cosmos in Compost (Bokashi)

21.8.-5.11.2026

Large plastic cocoons have pupated in Politikens Forhal. Inside them, suspended mobiles with dried animal waste are balanced by enlarged bronze-cast microbes as a slightly grotesque staging of our internal gut flora. Through humorous and playful distortions, Danish-Japanese artist Silas Inoue explores humanity's relationship with nature and other species. Although we are figuratively absent, his works reflect on our behavior as a species at a time when phenomena such as climate collapse and the sixth mass extinction dominate public discourse. Here, the cocoon becomes a potent motif as a classic metamorphic symbol promising transformation and change.

The Japanese part of the exhibition title, *Bokashi*, translates not only to a traditional Japanese woodblock printing technique and the blurring of sensitive image content, but also to a composting method developed for compact urban kitchens. Celebrating the cyclical nature of composting, the exhibition extends into Copenhagen City Hall Square with a sculpture group comprising an enlarged aluminium woodlouse and a monumental wooden seed. Since the sculptures will later move to the Sønderbro Area Renewal District in Copenhagen, local residents have filled them with biodegradable household waste, from which seeded plants with beneficial properties for the human microbiome will grow. Growth and decay coexist here as different temporal phases fused into one cycle.

Woodlice—like the centipedes and millipedes mounted on the exhibition walls—have survived multiple mass extinctions. Humanity has yet to do so. Inoue's sculptures therefore point to the peculiar possibility that humans may ultimately prove to be only a brief parenthesis in the long span of these animal groups' existence. Yet, through its entangled nature, the exhibition also raises the question of whether we might survive through coexistence by overgrowing the hierarchies between the human and the more-than-human.

Danish-Japanese artist Silas Inoue has exhibited internationally at venues including Ulterior Gallery in New York, Sonje Art Center in Seoul, and CAPC Musée d'Art Contemporain de Bordeaux. His upcoming solo exhibition at Bornholm Art Museum opens in 2027. Most recently, his work has been presented at Horsens Art Museum, Copenhagen Contemporary, and Malmö Konsthall. He lives on Amager in Copenhagen.

This project forms part of Politikens Forhal's three-year collaboration with the City of Copenhagen to commission temporary artworks for Copenhagen City Hall Square, each of which subsequently travels to one of the municipality's area renewal districts.

On a global scale, Politiken's Forhal is a unique exhibition space for Danish and international contemporary art. Located in one of Denmark's largest media houses at Copenhagen's City Hall Square, we host exhibitions, events, talks, and performances that offer new and critical perspectives on the public issues discussed in the columns of our journalistic neighbors. In this way, Politiken's Forhal bridges art and media to effectively secure art's place in the public discourse.