

MAPS presents

The Story of Public Art

March 22nd, 2025 – March, 2029

MAPS – Museum of Art in Public Spaces presents its largest international exhibition to date, ***The Story of Public Art***, on March 22nd, 2025. The exhibition tells the story of groundbreaking artistic experiments in public spaces from the 1960s to the present.

The Story of Public Art presents over 120 artists from more than 40 countries in an organic and dynamic exhibition format that will evolve throughout its four-year duration.

The Story of Public Art explores what artists do in public spaces. The exhibition draws connections to the lives we live and address, through the artist's perspective, significant societal themes across time and geography.

The exhibition offers an experience of art's international reach and significance, created in dialogue with its contemporary context. It highlights time-based works that have become landmarks for future generations, as well as pieces that have changed our perception of identity, power structures, biopolitics, desire, labor, social relations, nature, and reality.

The Story of Public Art will transform the museum building and branch out into public spaces.

The exhibition is divided into two parts:

- ***Dancing in the Streets (On Power)*** – The first part of the exhibition showcases artists' performances, actions, manifestations, and media interventions in cities worldwide. From Warsaw and Rio de Janeiro to Tamale and Times Square – and across media from the 1980's Spectacolor billboards to today's AI world-building.

- ***Explosions (On Expansion)*** – The second part of the exhibition explores artistic experiments in landscapes and the tension between nature and the human-made. From the 1960's Arte Povera and Earth Art to contemporary artistic investigations of art forms that merge with organic life forms and artificial nature.

MAPS' atrium will, as part of ***The Story of Public Art's*** opening, be transformed into a live-performance installation by the artist and choreographer **Maria Hassabi**. The installation will explore the museum space through movements, reflections, and encounters, offering new perspectives on art as independent public spaces.

Dancing in the Streets (On Power) opens on March 22, 2025. The second part of the exhibition, ***Explosions (On Expansion)***, opens on October 4, 2025. **Maria Hassabi's** performance can be experienced from March 22, 2025, to March 2029. The Story of Public Art is curated by Senior Curator at MAPS, PhD **Charlotte Sprogøe**, and designed by the Italian design firm **Formafantasma**.

Additional information



Lawrence Lek, NOX - 'Day Five: Equine Therapy', 2023. Video Still. Commissioned by LAS Art Foundation, Berlin. Courtesy of the artist and Sadie Coles HQ.

ABOUT MAPS

MAPS - Museum of Art in Public Spaces is Denmark's only museum dedicated exclusively to art in public spaces. MAPS engages local, national, and international audiences through exhibitions, commissions, research, educational activities, and public programs. From 2025, MAPS will intensify its production of temporary and long-term public art projects, engaging with national and regional urban spaces, landscapes, media, and digital public spaces. Simultaneously, the museum will reshape its exhibition activities, anchoring a flagship exhibition, **The Story of Public Art**, in the museum building alongside a series of smaller special exhibitions, creating an organic interplay between the museum's physical space and its core objective: art in public spaces. MAPS - Museum of Art in Public Spaces is formerly known as KØS Museum of Art in Public Spaces.

CURATOR

The exhibition is research-based and curated by Senior Curator at MAPS, **Charlotte Sprogøe**, PhD. In her research, Charlotte Sprogøe has explored exhibitions as living forms and contemporary art's use of location and choreography. Over the years, she has curated major contemporary art exhibitions for triennials, art centers, and museums, including Museum Brandts, Kunsthall Aarhus, Kunsthall Charlottenborg, and Rønnebæksholm.

EXHIBITION DESIGN

The exhibition is designed by the Milan-based, internationally recognized design firm **Formafantasma**, which has previously designed the main exhibition **Milk of Dreams** at the Venice Biennale 2023 and received numerous international design awards.

Concept og Design: **Andrea Trimarchi, Simone Farresin**
Design Development: **Gabriele Milanese**
Visual identity and Graphic Design: **Alexis Mark**

A combined reader and catalog will accompany the exhibition and will be released in October 2025.

The Story of Public Art is generously supported by New Carlsberg Foundation, The Augustinus Foundation, The A.P. Møller Foundation, Det Obelske Familiefond, Beckett-Fonden, 15. Juni Fonden, and The Danish Arts Foundation.

The opening in Copenhagen on the evening of March 22 is presented in collaboration with Arch. Hotel partner is ProfilHotels Copenhagen Plaza, part of the Ligula Hospitality Group. The exhibition is sponsored by Besana, Expromo, Værksted for fotografi.

MAPS

CONTACT

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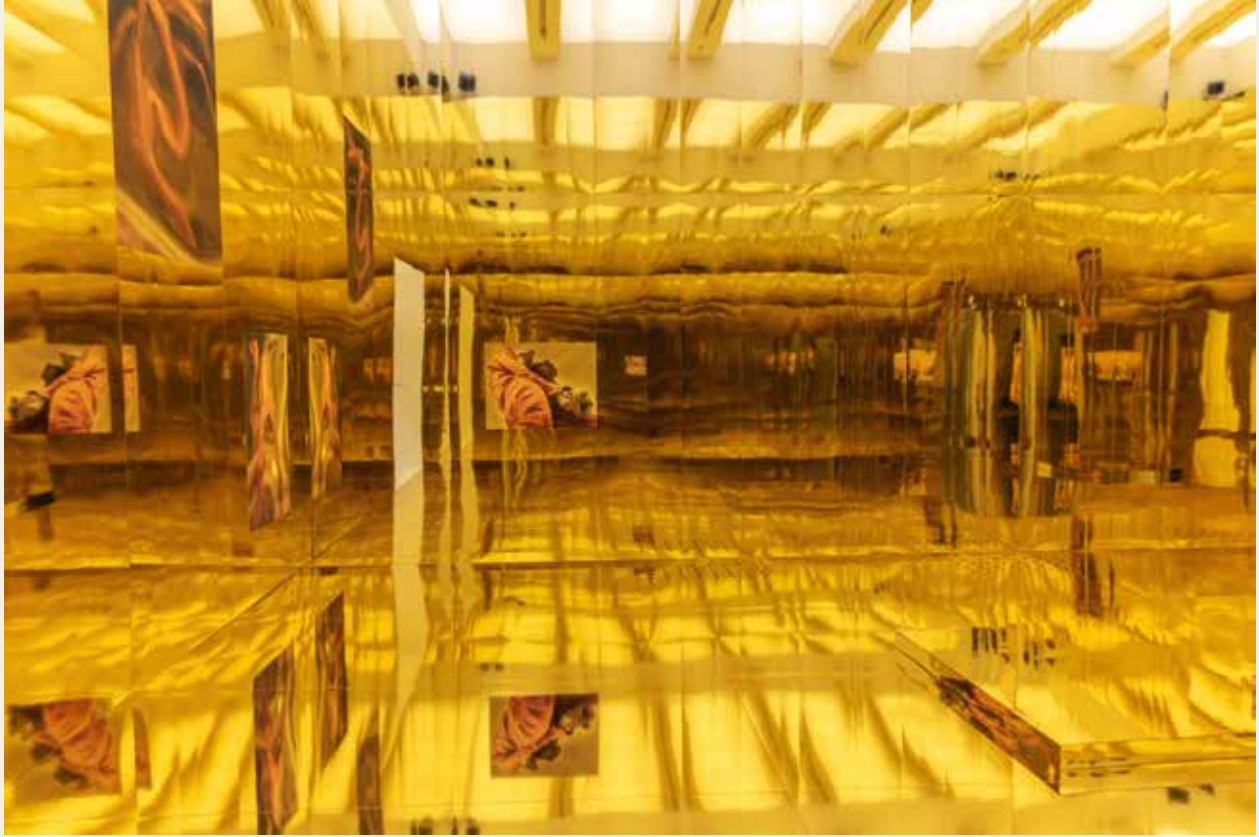
INFORMATION

Address: Nørregade 29
4600 Køge

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Tuesday–Sunday: 11am–5pm
Monday: Closed

Highlighted Artists



Maria Hassabi: *I'll Be Your Mirror*, 2023. Installation views, Tai Kwun Contemporary, Hong Kong. Courtesy the artist; The Breeder, Athens.

Maria Hassabi (b. 1973, Cyprus)

Maria Hassabi (b. 1973) is a Greek-Cypriot American choreographer, performer and visual artist. Since the early 2000s she has carved a unique artistic practice based on the relationship between the live body, the still image, and the sculptural object. Her works reflect on concepts of time and the human figure, while employing a variety of media to emphasize the complexity of formal organization. She has exhibited at institutions such as Tai Kwun Contemporary in Hong Kong, Secession in Vienna, Performa Biennial in New York, K20 in Düsseldorf, Documenta14 in Kassel, MoMA in New York, LUMA Arles, Centre Pompidou in Paris, Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, Hammer Museum in Los Angeles, the 55th Venice Biennale amongst others.

Hélio Oiticica (1937-1980, Brazil)

Hélio Oiticica was one of Brazil's most influential artists and has had a significant impact on Brazilian contemporary art. Oiticica is particularly known for his participatory works, his "enviros," and his influence on the Tropicália movement. His works are included in collections at institutions such as Inhotim Centro de Arte Contemporânea in Brazil, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Museo de Arte Reina Sofía in Madrid, Museu de Arte Moderna in Rio de Janeiro, Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, the Museum of Modern Art in New York, Tate Modern in London, Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, and Guggenheim Abu Dhabi.

Lawrence Lek (b. 1982, Germany)

Lawrence Lek is a German artist, filmmaker, and musician with Malaysian heritage. He combines architecture, gaming, video, music, and fiction into an ever-expanding cinematic universe. Over the past decade, Lek has incorporated elements such as video games and computer-generated animation into site-specific installations and digital environments, which he describes as "three-dimensional collages of found objects and situations." His works have been exhibited at The 20th Biennale of Sydney: Ten Thousand Suns, MUSEION in Bolzano, Shenzhen Museum of Contemporary Art and Urban Planning, Ludwig Museum in Budapest, and Leeum Museum of Art in Seoul.