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PRESS RELEASE

## *Labyrinths* – Ibrahim Mahama

Exhibition Opening: 12 June 2026

MAPS – Museum of Art in Public Space, Køge



Left: Ibrahim Mahama. Photo: Ernest Sackitey. Courtesy of the Artist, APALAZZOGALLERY, and White Cube. Centre: Red Clay Studio. Photo: Kit Leunbach. Right: Children from Strandskolen, Photo: Zara Wali.

One of the world’s most influential artists transforms Denmark’s historic bricks into a new public artwork together with the generation set to inherit the future.

On 12 June 2026, **MAPS** unveils a new monumental work on the museum’s forecourt: *Labyrinths* by Ghanaian artist Ibrahim Mahama, who currently holds the number one spot on ArtReview’s international Power 100 list.

The work is created from reclaimed bricks sourced from some of Denmark’s historically and culturally significant buildings: Frederiksborg Palace, Our Lady’s Abbey, Vestre Prison, the Natural History Museum of Denmark, and MAPS’ own building, formerly a school in Køge. These bricks have been part of places shaped by power, faith, punishment, learning and knowledge. Now, they are brought together in a new public artwork – not as ruins, not as nostalgia, but as material for imagining forward.

With *Labyrinths*, Ibrahim Mahama transforms MAPS’ forecourt into a space of passage, encounter, and reflection. A transitional space between museum and city, past and future, local and global. And between the stories we inherit and the hopes we pass on to future generations. Through workshops with one thousand children and young people from Køge, the work is not simply presented to a new generation – they actively become part of shaping it. Through hands, words, scratches and personal stories, they leave

tangible traces in the bricks and inscribe themselves into the work's narrative of community, memory, and future.

Mahama is internationally recognised for his large-scale installations in which used materials – jute sacks, shoeshine boxes, blackboards, railway tracks, train carriages, and other everyday objects – are given new life. In his practice, materials always carry stories: of global trade, labour, colonial connections, circulation, wear, and human movement across the world.

### **In *Labyrinths*, it is the brick that speaks.**

Each brick has been held, laid, moved, and used. It has stood in walls around people. It has existed close to lives, routines, hierarchies, and hands. Now, the bricks become part of a new shared narrative in public space.

“It is the children who place their perspective and hopes for the future into the work. For me, what matters is that we build it together. That we create a kind of shared dream, where questions emerge along the way, while the objects come into being and the material slowly takes shape through many hands. I am interested in how the process opens up new questions about how we live with what has already been built, and how future generations inherit not only objects, but also ways of thinking through materials, labour and time,” says **Ibrahim Mahama**.

“With *Labyrinths*, the past is not locked away inside buildings or archives. It is placed out in the city, where we can encounter it, move around it, and continue thinking with it. The work reminds us that history is not only something we look back on, but something we continue building with – something that can open new perspectives on how we share our spaces, our city, and our future,” says MAPS' Senior Curator, Kit Leunbach.

### **More than one thousand children and young people leave their mark on Ibrahim Mahama's new work.**

According to Ibrahim Mahama, artists carry a responsibility towards the people and environments around them. He does not see art as something reserved for a select few, but as a matter of solidarity – a place where we can come to know ourselves, each other, and our histories more deeply.

As part of the project, MAPS has invited children and young people from Køge Municipality into Mahama's artistic universe. During spring 2026, the museum's educators visited local schools with workshops exploring materials, memory, and the stories objects carry within them. Each student held a used brick in their hands. A brick from a monastery, a palace, a prison, a university, a school, or a museum. They felt its scratches, holes, dust, and weight. They spoke about what objects remember and what matters to them personally.

Some wrote on the bricks. Others scratched into them. Words such as family, friends, home, safety, play, and community became part of the process.

The bricks from the workshops are incorporated into the final work. The students may not be able to identify their exact brick among the large quantity of material, but that is not what matters most. What matters is the process, the conversations it has created, and the fact that they now share a special connection with a public artwork in their own city.

The project will also welcome children and adults from Red Clay Studio in Tamale, Ghana – the artistic and educational community founded by Ibrahim Mahama. During their visit, they will participate in activities at MAPS and visit schools in Køge.

“Through Mahama’s practice, we at MAPS were inspired to invite all public school students in Køge Municipality into his universe and way of thinking. They have worked with bricks, memory, and the stories materials carry with them. We visited Ibrahim Mahama at Red Clay Studio in Tamale, and in two weeks we will welcome a group of children and adults from there to Køge.

We believe we can learn a great deal from one another, and that we can only continue building the future when we understand history,” Kit Leunbach adds.

## First work in Tomorrow’s Public Art

*Labyrinths* has been developed as part of MAPS’ new programme series *Tomorrow’s Public Art*, through which the museum annually invites international artists to create new site-specific works in Køge. With the series, MAPS explores what public art can be today while opening up new ways of imagining the future. Through Tomorrow’s Public Art, we use public space as a place where new futures can be imagined, shared, and tested.

MAPS is a museum for art in public space. Rooted in Køge, with its gaze directed towards the world. With *Labyrinths*, the museum’s forecourt becomes a new shared space – a place where art does not stand beside life, but in the middle of it.

**Exhibition Opening:** 12 June 2026  
**Location:** MAPS – Museum of Art in Public Space, Køge  
**Artist:** Ibrahim Mahama  
**Artwork:** Labyrinths  
**Programme:** Tomorrow’s Public Art  
**Curator:** Kit Leunbach

## Tomorrow’s Public Art is supported by

The Augustinus Foundation, The New Carlsberg Foundation, The Danish Arts Foundation, The North Jutland Foundation, and The Aage and Johanne Louis-Hansen Foundation.

## Press photos:

[Download press photos here:](#)

### Picture 1 & 2:

Ibrahim Mahama. Photo: Ernest Sackitey. Courtesy of the Artist, APALAZZOGALLERY and White Cube

### Picture 3:

Red Clay Studio. Photo: Kit Leunbach

### Picture 4:

Children from Strandskolen. Photo: Zara Wali

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**About MAPS – Museum of Art in Public Space**

MAPS – Museum of Art in Public Space is a museum, platform and driving force for art in public space. We bring art into reality and make it part of the lives people already live – in the city, in the landscape and in the public spaces we share.

The museum holds a unique collection of more than 19,000 sketches and preparatory works for realised and unrealised public art projects. At the same time, MAPS is a living place where new ideas, collaborations and conversations are constantly taking shape.

MAPS is rooted in Køge and oriented toward the world. We actively engage in research, learning, and international networks, and collaborate closely with artists, researchers, and local communities. We believe that art in public space can bring people together, open new questions and inspire change. A museum that takes our shared spaces seriously and insists that art is an active part of the world and history we share.