



NICOLAI HOWALT

F.U.N.G.I.

photo - sculpture

7.11.2025 > 10.01.2026

VERNISSAGE

Thursday, November 6th – 5pm > 8:30pm

EVENTS

48 rue de Turenne, 75003 Paris

PHOTODAYS – 6th edition

3. 11 > 30. 11. 2025 – photodays.paris

Museums, galleries, fairs, and more participate in this photo-video festival in Paris and around

SIGNATURE

Friday, November 7th – from 6pm to 7:30pm

Nicolai Howalt signs his book ***Fungi*** (@Fabrikbooks, 2025) published in conjunction with the exhibition

MEET THE ARTIST / TALK

Saturday, November 8th – at 5pm

Nicolai Howalt in conversation with **Clémentine Mercier** – Art critic and **AICA Prize winner 2024**

SUNDAY OPENING

Sunday, December 7th – 2pm > 6pm

FAIR

LUXEMBOURG ART WEEK

21.11 > 23.11.2025 - luxembourgartweek.lu

Peter Martensen – Min Jung-Yeon – Bente Skjøttgaard – Yoo Hye-Sook

CLOSING

18. 11. 2025 + 21. 12 > 25. 12. 2025 + 1. 01. 2026

GALERIE
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L U N D**

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The Danish artist photographer Nicolai Howalt practises what could be called a highlighting technique. Explorer of the incomprehensible, of facets of human life which escape us either due to their scale or their invisibility, the artist takes an experimental, serial approach to capture, to make visible, or to simply to expose the questions raised by his subject. Method and random meet: Nicolai Howalt's positioning is humble and filled with doubt. He does not impose us anything, but rather shows us a world where humans stand small next to nature and a temporality beyond them. His work often comes with exchanges with scientists, materialised in texts published in his books.

In a time when photography is everywhere, Nicolai Howalt explores and challenges its foundations. He combines analogue techniques, biological processes and technologies with new media and materials. He thus creates works highlighting the unpredictability of matter, conversing with our shared reality, and studying the relationship between photography, time, and transformation. His practice often takes the shape of an exchange with the materials, which are not mere tools but act as co-creators of his works.



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F.U.N.G.I. 5-b | 2025 | edition 5 + 2 EA

UV print on glass 57 x 44 x 2,6 cm



F.U.N.G.I. on Paper 5 | 2025

edition | 5 + 2 EA

cliche print on handpainted 300g paper

200 x 150 cm



F.U.N.G.I. serie | 2025

exhibition view

UV print on glass

57 x 44 x 2,6 cm (each)

With **F.U.N.G.I.**, Nicolai Howalt explores the vital world of fungi and mycelia —a world often invisible to the naked eye but bearing as much importance to life on earth as oxygen or sunlight. In his works, fungi have a direct influence on the creative process. The artist creates organic photograms by cultivating a selection of fungal spores directly on photosensitive analogue paper, to then develop it in a darkroom. By deteriorating the paper, fungi bring about abstract, almost cosmic, patterns. Photographs of spores cultivated in Petri dishes unveil a multicoloured diversity of spherical growths, printed on both sides of glass so as to expose the view from the top and from the bottom of each dish. These works are presented at a right angle to the wall. In a third series, fungi cultivated in very thin layers and then dried have been used as negatives. Nicolai Howalt exposes them on photosensitive paper and develops them with analogue technique.

By making fungi active participants in the creation of the images, the exhibition challenges the conventional idea of photography as a passive, stable capture of reality. There, photography is an active act of construction, stemming from the interaction between artist, pattern, and matter. As part of the exhibition, the photographic works come with a series of bronze sculptures where fungi grow and embed themselves in objects such as a canvas bag or stranded vines.

F.U.N.G.I. places itself at the crossroads between science and art and raises issues of existential ecology and of phenomenology of time and of the image. This body of works aims at stimulating the imagination, at awakening consciousness and reflexions on the mysterious but vital presence of fungi in our life and our environment. **F.U.N.G.I. questions our complex relationship to that nature with which we interact, whilst inviting us to question the physicality and history of photography.**

background

Nicolai Howalt was born in Denmark in 1970. He trained at the school of photography **Fatamorgana** to pursue a career in photo-reporting, but changes course after a few years to dedicate himself to his work as an artist.

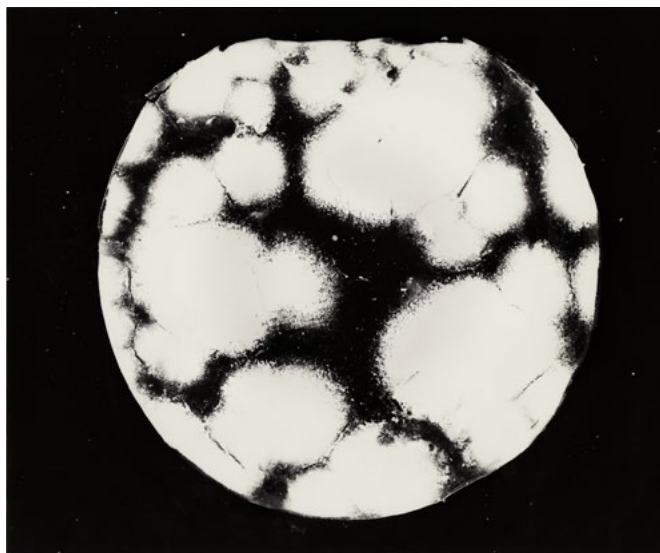
Nicolai Howalt's work has been largely exhibited in Scandinavia, in Europe, and in the United States. It has been granted prizes by many prestigious institutions (**Hasselblad Foundation**, **Danish Arts Foundation** etc.). The exhibition *Variations of Old Tjikko* at **Nikolaj Kunsthal** (Copenhagen, 2020) was distinguished as the best exhibition of the year in Denmark. The following year, the series was awarded an honorary grant of **Aage & Yelva Nimbs Fond** (Denmark). In the autumn of 2024, Nicolai Howalt enjoyed a **work residence in Pietra Santa, Italy**.

In France, his series *Elements* was presented in **L'Épreuve de la matière**, at the **BnF – Bibliothèque nationale de France** (2023), and his work *Ceci n'est pas la lune* was part of the exhibition *La Nuit, le regard se tourne vers la lune et les étoiles* at **CAC – Meymac** (2024). The **Maison du Danemark** in Paris hosted the exhibition *How to hunt* (in collaboration with Trine Søndergaard, 2012), and Nicolai Howalt and Trine Søndergaard's photographs entered the collections of the **Fondation Hermès** and the **Maison européenne de la Photographie**.

Nicolai Howalt's works are presented in a number of collections: **Musée de l'Élysée**, Switzerland; **J. Paul Getty Museum**, United States; **Hiscox Art Project**, United States; **Montreal Museum of Fine Arts**, Canada; **Israel Museum**, Israel; **Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Castilla y León**, Spain; **Museum of Fine Art Houston**, United States; **Artphilein Foundation**, Italy –and in Denmark, those of: **ARoS**, Aarhus Art Museum; **Kunsten, Museum of Modern Art**, Aalborg; **Medical Museion**, University of Copenhagen; **Bornholms Art Museum**; **Esbjerg Art Museum**; **New Carlsberg Foundation**; **Skagens Museum**; **Danish Arts Foundation**; **Brandts**, Odense; **Royal Library – National Museum of Photography**, Copenhagen; **Ny Kredit – Enigma Museum**, Copenhagen. Until 11.01.2026, the **Museum der Westküste** (Föhr, Germany) hosts Nicolai Howalt's exhibition, *The Outer Inner World*. A catalogue comes with the exhibition.

Nicolai Howalt's work has been the subject of many books: *3 x 1* (2001), *Boxer* (2003), *How to hunt* (2010, with Trine Søndergaard), *Sammen stød* (2011), *78 boxers* (2011), *Car Crash Studies* (2012), *LightBreak* (2015), *By looking down I see up. By looking up I see down* (2017), *Old Tjikko* (2019), *A New Light Break* (2020), and *A Journey: The Near Future* (2022) and *The Near Future* (2022). *Old Tjikko* was granted the **Maribor photobook award** in 2020. **In conjunction with the exhibition F.U.N.G.I., an eponymous book was published.**

Nicolai Howalt's collaboration with Galerie Maria Lund started in 2015 with the presentation of his series *LightBreak* as part of the exhibition **Here comes the sun**. It was followed by **de travers**, a dialogue exhibition with sculptor Esben Klemann (2017) and by **Migrations** (2019) with Esben Klemann and Pipaluk Lake. In 2022, the gallery presented him in **Nul homme que la lune n'ait vu** at the Ancienne Nonciature (Brussels) and hosted his personal exhibition **Specimens**. Nicolai Howalt's work was also presented at the fair **Luxembourg Art Week** (2022 and 2024).



F.U.N.G.I. Negatives 4 | 2025 – edition | 5 + 2 EA
gelatin silver print – 33 x 25 cm

(on the left) **untitled | 2025** – edition | 3 + 2 EA
bronze sculpture – 230 x 7 x 7 cm

For 26 years the **GALERIE MARIA LUND** has been encouraging a contemporary art that combines conceptual depth and visual pertinence; strong works that suggest meaning rather than imposing one, and in a contemporary form raise existential questions. Initially focused on the Nordic art scene, the gallery developed an international scope while maintaining strong ties with Scandinavia. The works of the artists represented cover a wide range of media: installation, sculpture, painting, drawing, photo, performance, video, textile and poetry. In addition to the organization of exhibitions at its premises and participation in various fairs, the gallery also promotes its artists to institutions and private organizations, handles commissions, publishes books and occasionally host other artistic fields (theatre, music, literature) for one-off events.

The gallery is a member of the French galleries association, CPGA – and of pgmap – paris gallery map