

# THE OCEAN INSIDE

"We should stop drinking this water. It's in a plastic bottle, and that means there's plastic in it." This unsettling observation from a 9-year-old became the inspiration for this garden installation.

The work represents a spring in the boreal forest, centered on a 7.4-meter-wide, petri dish-shaped metal disc. Floating on its surface are recycled plastic flakes, symbolizing the omnipresence of plastic in our daily lives.

Every hour, for 10 minutes, water circulates through the disc, setting the flakes into motion driven by surface tension, a natural phenomenon known as the "Cheerios effect." The flakes gently drift apart, then slowly cluster together into ephemeral plastic islands as the water calms, continuously shifting with every subtle ripple.

The flakes' artificial colors and textures contrast with the surrounding natural reflections, creating an immersive sense of strangeness. This unsettling juxtaposition unveils the hidden plastic reality embedded in the world we inhabit.

We may have been drinking plastic all our lives. The Ocean Inside, this uncharted "plastic continent," offers a glimpse into what might reside inside us, viewed through its own synthetic lens.



1. Separation of PET plastic bottles (which sink) from PP plastic caps (which float).
2. The process of making plastic flakes.
3. Logic of Place (1975) by Lee Kun-Young.
4. The aesthetics of PP plastic flakes floating on water.



