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ART NEWS

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## `PAVILION OF RAIN` AT CAL STATE NORTHRIDGE

By ZAN DUBIN

Never have so many helped so few to create artworks so unusual. Kazuo Kadonaga's latest sculptures are made of thousands of silkworm cocoons. And yes, the artist used the hairy animals to spin their egg-shaped homes into his works--coaxing more than 100,000 creatures to produce about 90 pieces. Kadonaga, a Japanese artist, has brought the artworks here for "Silk," an exhibit running Saturday to March 28 at Space Gallery (6015 Santa Monica Blvd).

Space director Ed Lau, who has exhibited Kadonaga's works twice before, said Kadonaga has constructed wooden frames, some square, some rounded, with myriad cubbyholes or "niches" within which he lets the worms form their delicate domiciles. Seen in photographs, the overall effect is geometric yet gentle; the rigid frames, ranging from six inches to

six feet tall, seem softened by the white cotton ball-like cocoons that fill them.

Kadonaga likes to let the force of nature, not just his own human power, shape his art--an idea common to the Japanese aesthetic.

The idea behind the silk works is that the caterpillars choose their location; Kadonaga does not take the worms and place them, because they won't stay. But he must stay up for about two days and nights and turn the frames. Otherwise the caterpillars will all end up at the top. They have a tendency to crawl to the top and look for niches there."

And what happens to the silkworms when they are ready to emerge with wings?

"Kadonaga heats them and kills them," Lau said, in an apologetic tone. "Otherwise we would have butterflies all over the gallery!"