

NANNA MELLAND

- 1 Move in the same direction as your neighbors
2. Remain close to your neighbors
3. Avoid collisions with your neighbors

Norwegian designer, Nanna Melland's SWARM is inspired from flight constellations in nature. Swarming is a collective behavior exhibited by animals of similar size that aggregate together, milling about in the same spot, moving en masse, or migrating in some direction. From the perspective of the mathematical modeler, it is an emergent behavior arising from simple rules that are followed by individuals without any central coordination.

Swarms typify the double nature of group interaction. There are many advantages for individuals to gather in larger groups for protection, but if the swarm becomes too big, or in any other way falls out of balance, its very power and protection can turn from positive to negative. The consequences can lead to total destruction of the individuals and have massive repercussions outside of the swarm.

SWARM consists of thousands of small flat aluminium airplanes suspended in a cloud formation. The size of the installation and its relentless repetition of an otherwise familiar form seek to induce in the viewer the same discomfort and awareness of scale as when faced with a natural swarm. There is beauty in the synchronized movements, but the force of the mass formed by thousands of tiny individuals is disturbing. The viewer is invited to purchase an element from the installation, pin it on their clothing and move back into the world with a heightened sense of their fragile place within the global mass and the symbiotic relationship to others who have engaged in the same action.

Born in Oslo, Norway in 1969 Nanna Melland is the daughter of Norwegian painter Knut Jørgensen. She grew up in Ekely, the renowned artist settlement in Oslo, founded by the generosity of Edvard Munch. In 2008 she received her diploma from The Munich Academy of Fine Art under professor Otto Kunzli. Since then Melland has exhibited and is collected internationally including a recent presentation of SWARM in Beijing.

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