



SWARM STUDY/III

Ceramics staircase

Opened 18 June

The V&A unveils SWARM STUDY/III, a new interactive light installation by Random International. The piece overhangs the staircase that adjoins the Architecture and Ceramics Galleries, and will be on display for the next three years. The installation has been developed specifically for this position, in association with the Carpenters Workshop Gallery.

SWARM STUDY/III is made up of illuminated brass rods, suspended from the ceiling in an arrangement of four large cubes. As visitors move up and down the stairs, so the light follows in swarm-like formations, varying subtly in its intensity. Tracked by a camera, the visitors' movements stimulate the behaviour of the installation. Controlled by a complex algorithm, SWARM STUDY/III translates collective behavioural patterns found in nature into moving light. Though apparently inanimate, the installation is brought to life by visitors' activity, engaging them with both the swarm itself and the surrounding space of the Museum.

Hannes Koch of Random International: *"The whole studio feels extremely honoured by the V&A's commission. Being allowed to call the V&A the long-term 'home' of one of our biggest public installations is simply incredible; it's as if a part of Random were now living in the V&A. As anybody may imagine, for once we're happily speechless!"*

SWARM STUDY/III is visible from the Architecture Gallery and Ceramics Gallery.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

Random International

Was founded by Stuart Wood, Florian Ortkrass and Hannes Koch in 2002. The collective is devoted to creating digital-based installations which encourage a physical interaction between the audience and the object. Earlier work is in the permanent collection of the Museum and has been included in two previous V&A exhibitions, *Decode (Audience)* and *Telling Tales (Morse Light)*.

Carpenters Workshop Gallery

Mayfair based, the gallery specializes in bringing artistic positioning to design, through an ambitious program of exhibits they avoid categorization by uniting conceptual and functional works which strive to challenge and enlighten. It aims to be the destination in London and Europe for cutting-edge contemporary design-art. As well as Random International, Carpenters Workshop Gallery presents the work of established artists including Atelier Van Leishout, Studio Job, Marc Quinn, Pablo Reinoso, Wendell Castle and Ingrid Donat as well as encouraging up and coming designers such as Robert Stadler, Mathieu Lehanneur, Sebastian Brajkovic and Vincent Dubourg.

The V&A is the world's leading museum of art and design with collections unrivalled in their scope and diversity. It was established to make works of art available to all and to inspire British designers and manufacturers. Today, the V&A's collections, which span over 2000 years of human creativity in virtually every medium and from many parts of the world, continue to intrigue, inspire and inform.

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