SWARM
Artist - Stuart Keeler

SWARM is a public artwork integrated into the 6th Street SW CTrain station located along the 7th Avenue Corridor in downtown Calgary.

The artist's goal was to create a work imbued with colour and ambience which will engage the community within this public space in a thoughtful and provoking way. The artist chose digital screened film on laminated glass to enliven this station with colour and imagery.

The colour fields are based on old mapping history, creating a tartan grid of squares - a natural field of warm colour which casts shadows onto the pavement below, creating a pattern to observe. A swarm of leaf seeds, commonly called 'keys', are united and separated in the swarm pattern taken from the flight of birds in a dusk or dawn flight motion.

The Artist

A fellow Canadian, interdisciplinary artist Stuart Keeler works in the public realm with ephemeral studio works and conceptual interventions. His frequent work in other media, including installation, sound, drawing and performance often explore the multiple histories, private functions, public mythologies and questions the human landscape. From the outskirts of Toronto, Canada, to urban Chicago, Atlanta, and London (UK), Keeler explores the evolving role of how art and the public can be united in interesting ways. With an MFA in Sculpture from The Art Institute of Chicago, Keeler has recently been awarded the following grants; Rauchenberg Foundation, The Studio Program (Atlanta), Service Works (San Francisco), Puffin Foundation (New Jersey), Illinois Arts Council Governers Award (Contemporary Arts Council, Chicago, Illinois).

The Project

- The artist team was selected through an open call process with a submission deadline of April 4, 2008.
- The artist budget was $89,000.
- The project was a collaborative initiative by the Public Art Program and the Department of Transportation.
- The capital project which provided the funding was the construction of the 7th Avenue Refurbishment project.
- SWARM was completed in February 2009.

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