



National Nordic Museum

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Danish Photographer Captures Rare Natural Phenomenon in

Søren Solkær: Sort Sol



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Starling Book Release

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SEATTLE, WA (October 24, 2023) – The National Nordic Museum proudly presents *Søren Solkær: Sort Sol*, showcasing the exquisite works of internationally celebrated Danish photographer Søren Solkær. The exhibition is open December 9, 2023, to March 10, 2024.

Søren Solkær: Sort Sol features recent work by Søren Solkær (b. 1969), who rose to prominence in the early 2000s with his penetrating portraits of legendary performers such as Björk, Metallica, Paul McCartney, the White Stripes, and Amy Winehouse, among others.

The subjects of the photographer's present work are music makers of another sort. Solkær's *Sort Sol* is a photographic series that studies the murmurations of starlings. The Danish term "sort sol" refers to these murmurations, the forms of which temporarily obscure the sun.

A "murmuration" derives from "murmur," or the soft sound of the starlings' flight calls and fluttering wings as they move together midair. Starling murmurations take myriad forms—from abstract to representational and may function as an open call to join the evening roost and provide protection against predators.

From an early age, the Solkaer observed starling murmurations in the wetlands of southern Denmark. In his mature work, he revisits this spectacle, which is observable on multiple continents where starlings are native or invasive species. Solkær has captured this mysterious act of murmurations across Europe since 2017.

Solkær's *Sort Sol* series celebrates this curious occurrence of shape-shifting starlings and draws inspiration from 19th-century European landscape painting and Japanese woodblock prints. Featuring over 50



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photographs and video art, *Søren Solkær: Sort Sol* is the first exhibition of this series in a U.S. Museum.

Leslie Anne Anderson, Chief Curator for the National Nordic Museum, and curator of this exhibition notes, “*Søren Solkær: Sort Sol* explores the particulars of nature through art and deepens our understanding of science.”

Exhibition-related programs will include an artist talk, artmaking, bird watching, and scientific lectures.

Coinciding with the opening of *Søren Solkær: Sort Sol*, Solkær is set to release his ninth photographic monograph, *Starling*, in November 2023. The book will feature 138 exclusive images, encapsulating the beauty and mystery of this fascinating phenomenon.

The artist will sign copies of *Starling* at his lecture, which is open to the public, on December 10. Register at <https://nordicmuseum.org/events/artist-talk-soren-solkaer>.

For further details about the exhibition or to purchase tickets, please visit <https://nordicmuseum.org/exhibitions/sort-sol>. This exhibition is included in a paid General Admission ticket. On the first Thursday of every month, General Admission is free and tickets to *Søren Solkær: Sort Sol* may be purchased for \$5 at the door.

Image Captions from Left to Right, Courtesy of the Artist:

Søren Solkær. Black Sun #128, Houtwiel, Friesland, the Netherlands.

Søren Solkær. Black Sun #149, Rome, Italy.

SPONSORS

Søren Solkær: Sort Sol exhibition at the National Nordic Museum is made possible through the generous support of Scan Design Foundation with additional support from ArtsFund, Arts WA, Seattle Office of Arts and Culture, and 4Culture.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Søren Solkær is a Danish photographer, born in 1969. He has been working with a global profile since 1996. Søren is best known for his distinctive portraits of musicians. He is most recognized as the man responsible for various iconic images of Björk, The White Stripes, Paul McCartney, David Lynch, Amy Winehouse, Pharrell Williams, Adele, and Patti Smith.



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Søren's photography is characterized by finding a tension point between intimacy and edginess. His portraits are often regarded as cinematic in tone with a distinctive color palette. The inspirations for his style as a photographer range from filmmakers David Lynch and Wong Kar-Wai to the works of photographer Philip-Lorca diCorcia and painter Caspar David Friedrich.

Søren's works have been exhibited in New York, Copenhagen, Sydney, Melbourne, London, Los Angeles, Chicago, Vancouver, Milan, Munich, Prague, and Kyoto. His work is featured as part of the permanent collection in The Royal Danish Library and The National Portrait Collection in Frederiksborg Castle, Denmark.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL NORDIC MUSEUM

The National Nordic Museum is the only museum in the United States that showcases the impact and influence of Nordic values and innovation in contemporary society and tells the story of 12,000 years of Nordic history and culture, across all five Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden) as well as three autonomous regions (Greenland, the Faroe Islands, and Åland) and the cultural region of Sápmi. The Museum shares Nordic culture with people of all ages and backgrounds by exhibiting art and objects, preserving collections, providing educational and cultural experiences, and serving as a community gathering place.

The National Nordic Museum is open Tuesdays through Sundays, 10am to 5pm. General Admission is \$20 for adults, \$10 for youth, and children 4 and under are free. Discounts are also available for college students and seniors. Further information is available at www.nordicmuseum.org.