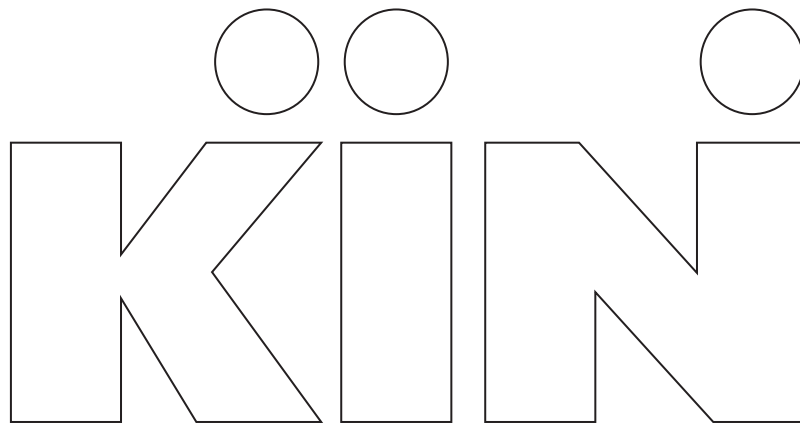


Zuza Golińska

Swarm

27/10, 5pm-2/12 2023



Zuza Golińska's works often takes the form of sculptures. For Golińska, the occupation of space itself, is the primary medium. Over the last few years, materiality has gained increasing significance and importance in the artist's work. This development can be traced back to Golińska's residency in Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine in 2019 where she lived and worked in a centrally located complex of the Promprylad factory. Once a leading producer of gas meters in Soviet Ukraine, now post-socialist reality has led to the decline of Promprylad's production. Nowadays, creative industries have entered the complex. Yet, unlike in the capital-intensive urban centres where traces of labour have almost entirely disappeared, parts of Promprylad continue to be lined with the lives of former workers.

Swarm exhibited at KIN continues on the path set by Golińska in her previous works. The sculptures have a strong material presence that result from Golińska's involvement in producing them within the boundaries of her workshop in the Gdańsk Shipyard. She moves through the metal workshops, scavenging through heaps of scrap metal, selecting, arranging and testing the forms in space. Cooperating with the welders, who used to approach her with disbelief and now are familiar with her presence, she binds and scrapes metal together into sculptures. Or, if the scraps allow it, she bends them into the desired forms. Finally, the rusty metal is partially powder painted in bright colours adding futuristic and painterly dimensions to the final form of the works.

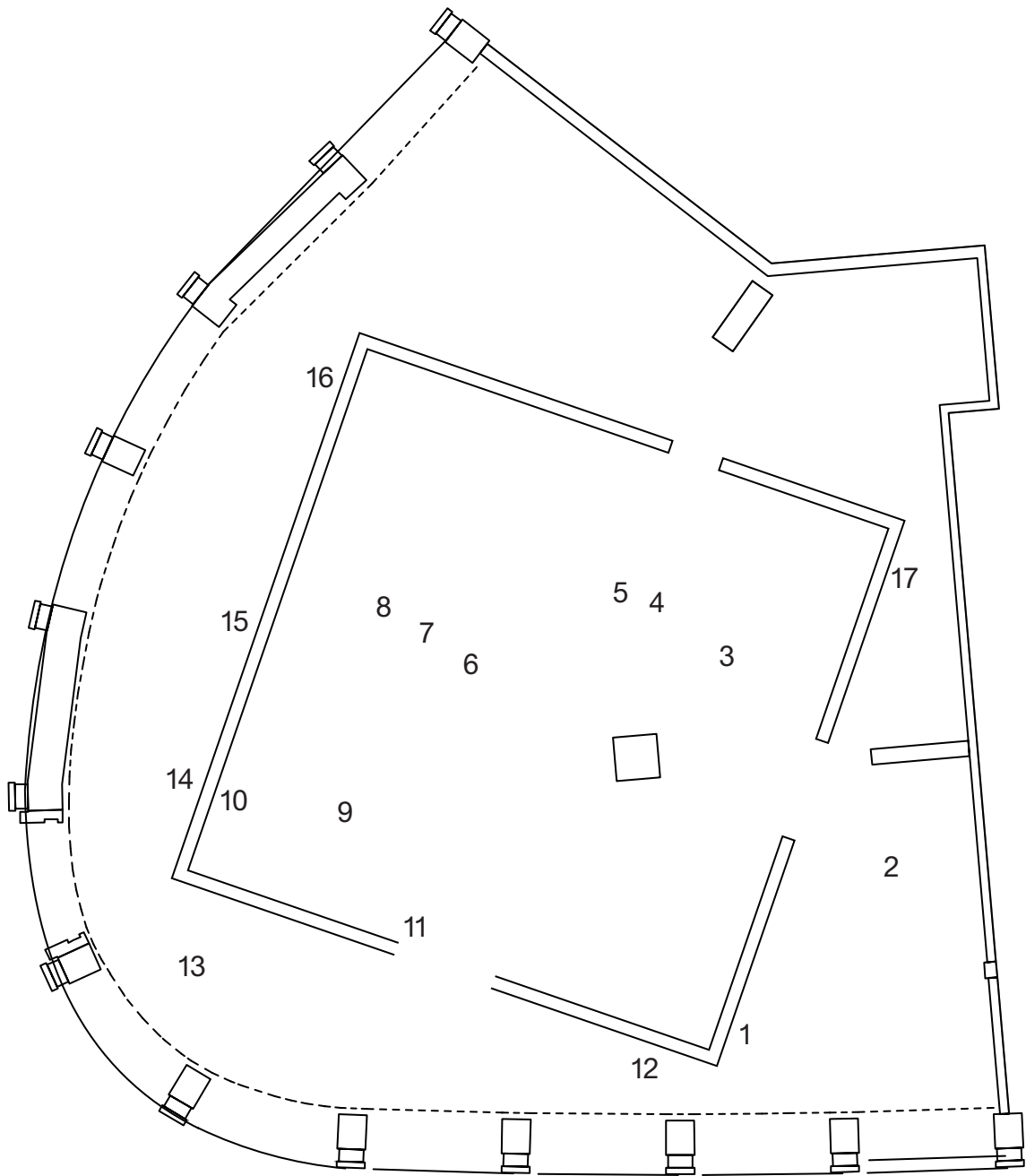
When we enter *Swarm*, we encounter an alien environment created from the leftovers of the declining factory complex. We are confronted with an ecology in which technology has replaced nature once and for all. Part of the swarm constitutes entities which seem to recall stick insects, remaining at a defensive standstill in order to avoid being consumed by more aggressive types in this uncanny crowd. The latter seems to be governed

by those used for combat. They seem to originate in a cross-breeding of insect-devouring sundews with military drones. For sure they hear our steps, having satellite antennae and owls among their ancestors. Unlike the ruins of the past, contemplating the swarm does not bring recollections of the past, nor allows us to say anything certain about the future. It is a rush of here and now, gently awakened by the artist from a rusty dream of scrap heap.

Architects, artists, and philosophers, epoch after epoch, have been drawn to the sublime spectacle of decay which occurs when a building loses its 'function or meaning in the present while retaining a suggestive, unstable semantic potential.' For most, ruin gazing triggered a nostalgic rumination about the past. Yet here we are, at the dawn of the Anthropocene epoch, waving goodbye to the stable balance between humankind and nature as it fades in the side mirror of a gasoline-fuelled car. In front are the ruins, triggering anxiety and fear. The ruins of colonialism, war and industrial progress, decay into landscapes of rust, rubble and waste stretching towards the horizon. The carcass of industrial production, that once pumped carbon-infused blood into the veins of the European cities lies on a shore of global supply chains. The digital nomads feed upon the dead beast, while ruderal plants grow over it. The atmospheric soup is progressively boiling.

For several years, Zuza Golińska has been consistently looking at, searching through and reflecting on life in this new landscape of modern ruins. Initially looking from afar, she gradually moves closer and closer, establishing lasting relationships and finally recognising this place as her own.

Adam Przywara
Zurich, October 2023



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| 1. <i>Swarm (Centre I)</i> , 2023 Steel, powder paint, 45 x 40 x H25 cm | 10. <i>Swarm (Centre III)</i> , 2023 Steel, powder paint, 80 x 52 x H70 cm |
| 2. <i>Swarm (Centre II)</i> , 2023 Steel, powder paint, 72 x 28 x H72 cm | 11. <i>Swarm (Insect VI)</i> , 2023 Steel, powder paint, 188 x 52 x H177 cm |
| 3. <i>Swarm (Satellite I)</i> , 2023 Steel, powder paint, 80 x 80 x H82 cm | 12. <i>Swarm (Centre IV)</i> , 2023 Steel, powder paint, 106 x 61 x H97 cm |
| 4. <i>Swarm (Insect I)</i> , 2023 Steel, powder paint, 186 x 70 x H180 cm | 13. <i>Swarm (Satellite III)</i> , 2023 Steel, powder paint, 96 x 80 x H62 cm |
| 5. <i>Swarm (Insect II)</i> , 2023 Steel, powder paint, 130 x 130 x H80 cm | 14. <i>Swarm (Centre V)</i> , 2023 Steel, powder paint, 80 x 20x H74 cm |
| 6. <i>Swarm (Insect III)</i> , 2023 Steel, powder paint, 177 x 77 x H170 cm | 15. <i>Swarm (Centre VI)</i> , 2023 Steel, powder paint, 82 x 16 x H50 cm |
| 7. <i>Swarm (Insect IV)</i> , 2023 Steel, powder paint, 160 x 45 x H80 cm | 16. <i>Dot I</i> , 2023, Steel, powder paint, 13 x 12 x H0.5 cm |
| 8. <i>Swarm (Insect V)</i> , 2023 Steel, powder paint, 177 x 77 x H170 | 17. <i>Dot II</i> , 2023, Steel, powder paint, 13 x 12 x H0.5 cm |
| 9. <i>Swarm (Satellite II)</i> , 2023 | |