FRAMES

DENCESCU · GLADIS · JANTZEN · MCARTHUR · RIEKE · SWANENBURG · SZABO · ZHAO HAN

VOLUME 10

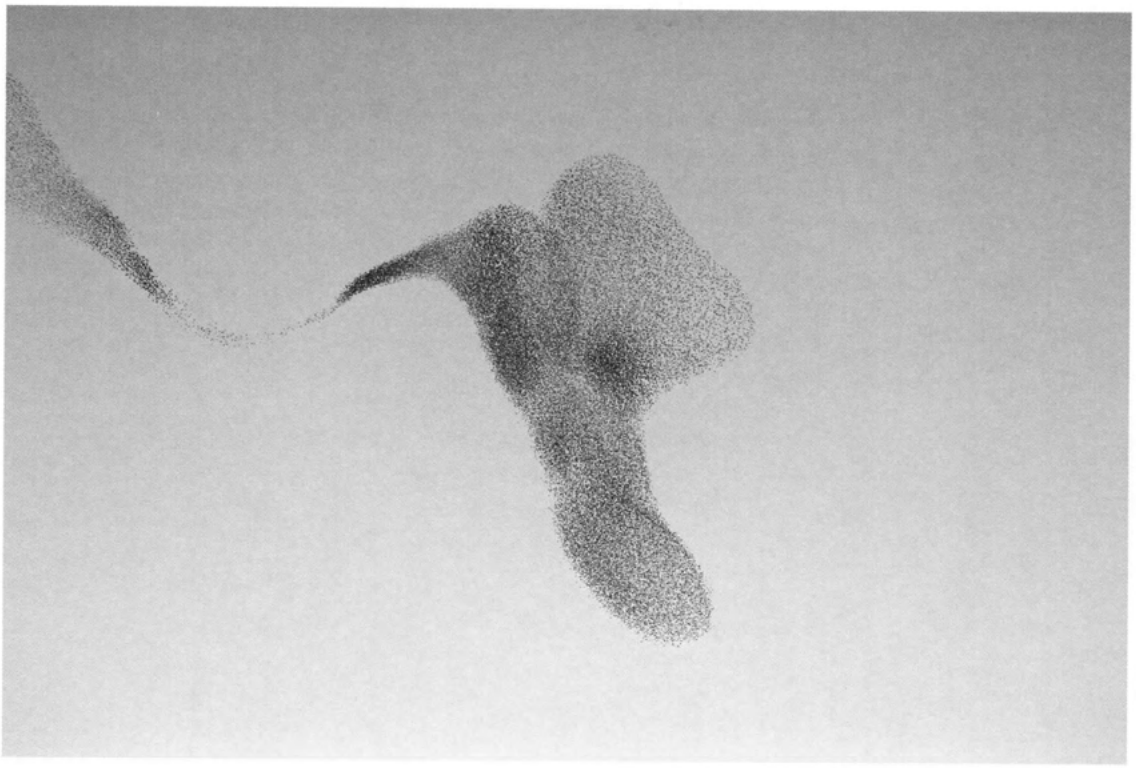
PHOTOGRAPHER FOUR

FORMS OF MURMURATIONS

Daniel Dencescu

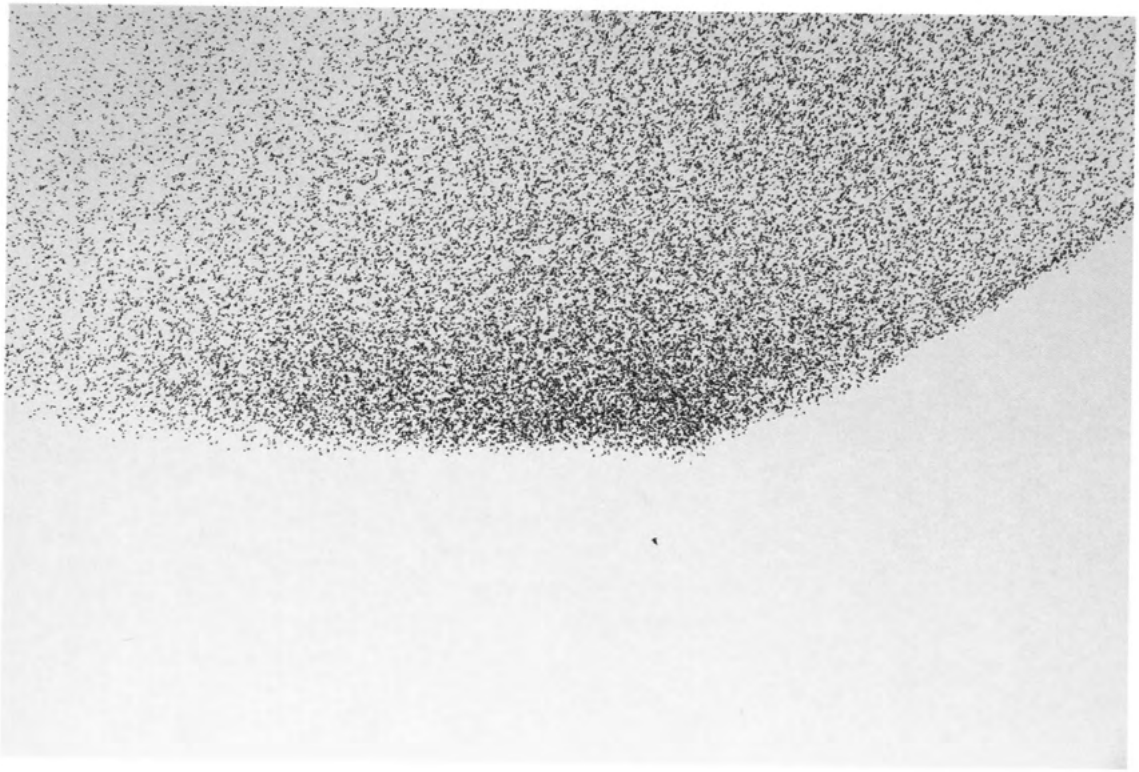
I want to describe the murmurations of starlings as an elegant dance. There's certainly something mesmerizing in how these birds move — a vast, impromptu choreography, each bird part of something vastly bigger than itself. The colossal organic shapes that form, have an inherent beauty, but here we see many unexpected coincidences. With all my murmurations series photographed against a flat, cloudless sky the resulting images are undiluted, sparse, and beautiful, leaving room for many interpretations.

Starling Murmuration 91
Daniel Dencescu



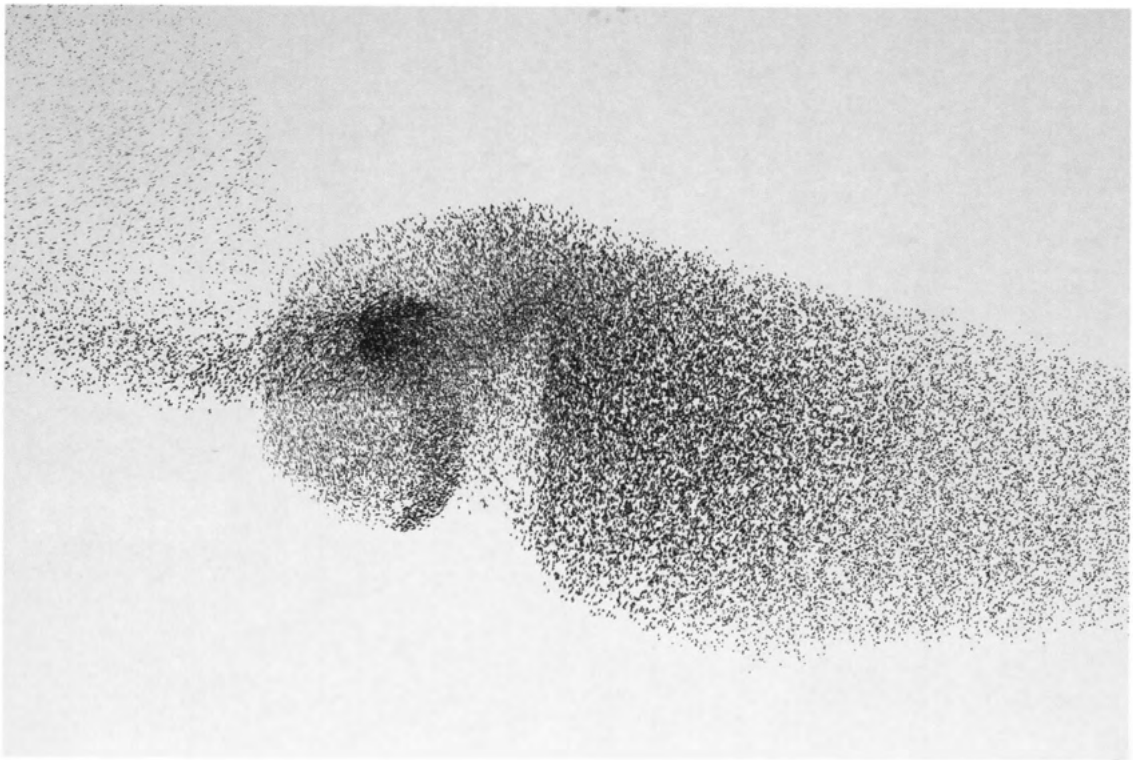
The term "murmuration" comes from the sound made by the rapid beating of many wings. It sounds like a grumble and a whisper. By gathering in huge flocks, the birds shelter from their enemies, such as the peregrine falcon, seen in this photograph about life and death. It would be difficult to target a single bird in the mesmerizing crowd. Starlings gather in the evening to give each other warmth at night and to exchange information, for instance about feeding places. To photograph the starlings, you need to know where they sleep, because their incredible flight formations take place in the immediate vicinity of these roosts.

Starling Murmuration 109
Daniel Dencescu



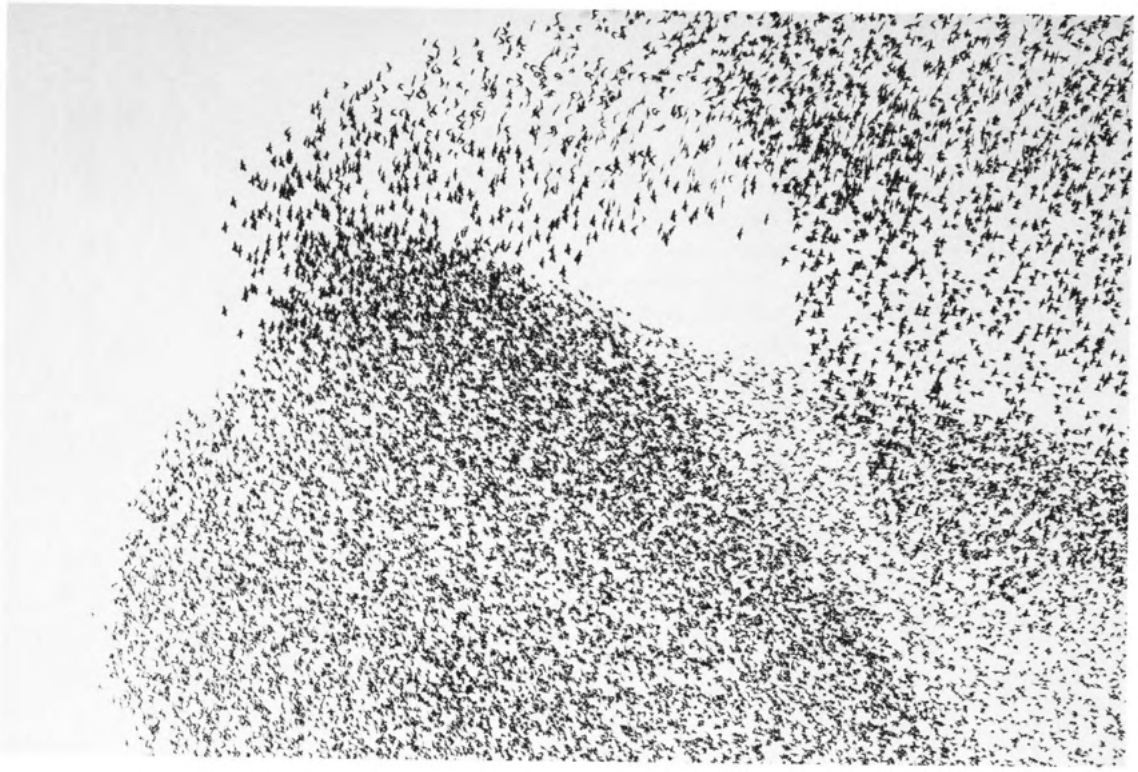
As the sun sets, ever more starlings converge from different directions and form a huge, black mass in the sky before settling on the trees or ground where they sleep. Starlings react incredibly fast; one moment they fly close together, the next they fly far apart, splitting up and then re-joining — this is how these unique formations are formed, which combine in an enchanting dance.

Starling Murmuration 89
Daniel Dencescu



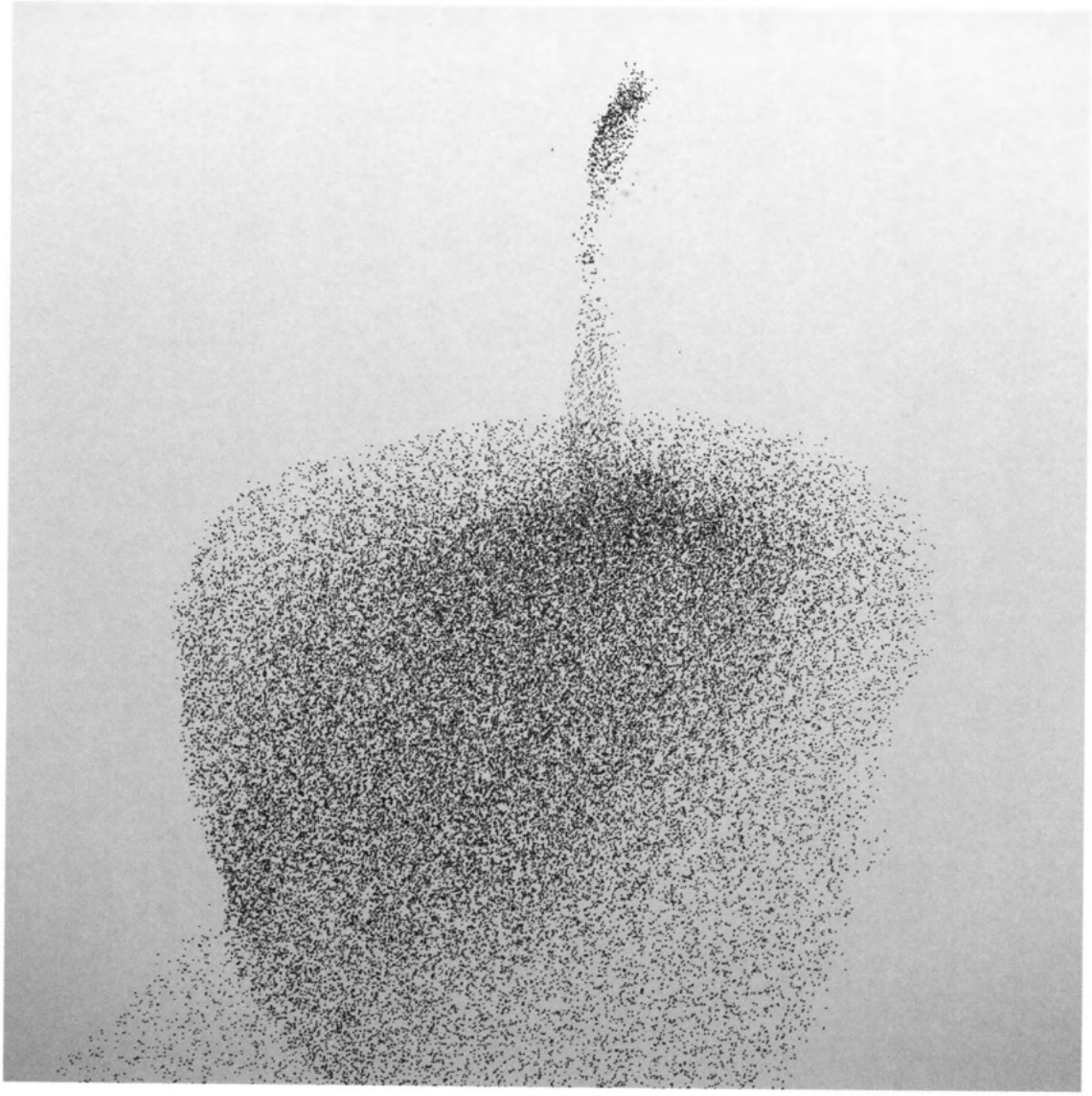
There is no leader in a murmuration, the flock behaves as one single entity. To stay united through the different escape patterns, each bird tracks and mimics the behavior of seven neighbors.

Starling Murmuration 75
Daniel Dencescu



The group can adapt quickly by focusing on a fixed number of birds, becoming dense or sparse, splitting and changing shape. By following the fastest bird in the world, the peregrine falcon (390 km/h), I manage to capture the frozen, split seconds of eternal shapes.This creates unique images that cannot be reproduced, by capturing the "here and now".

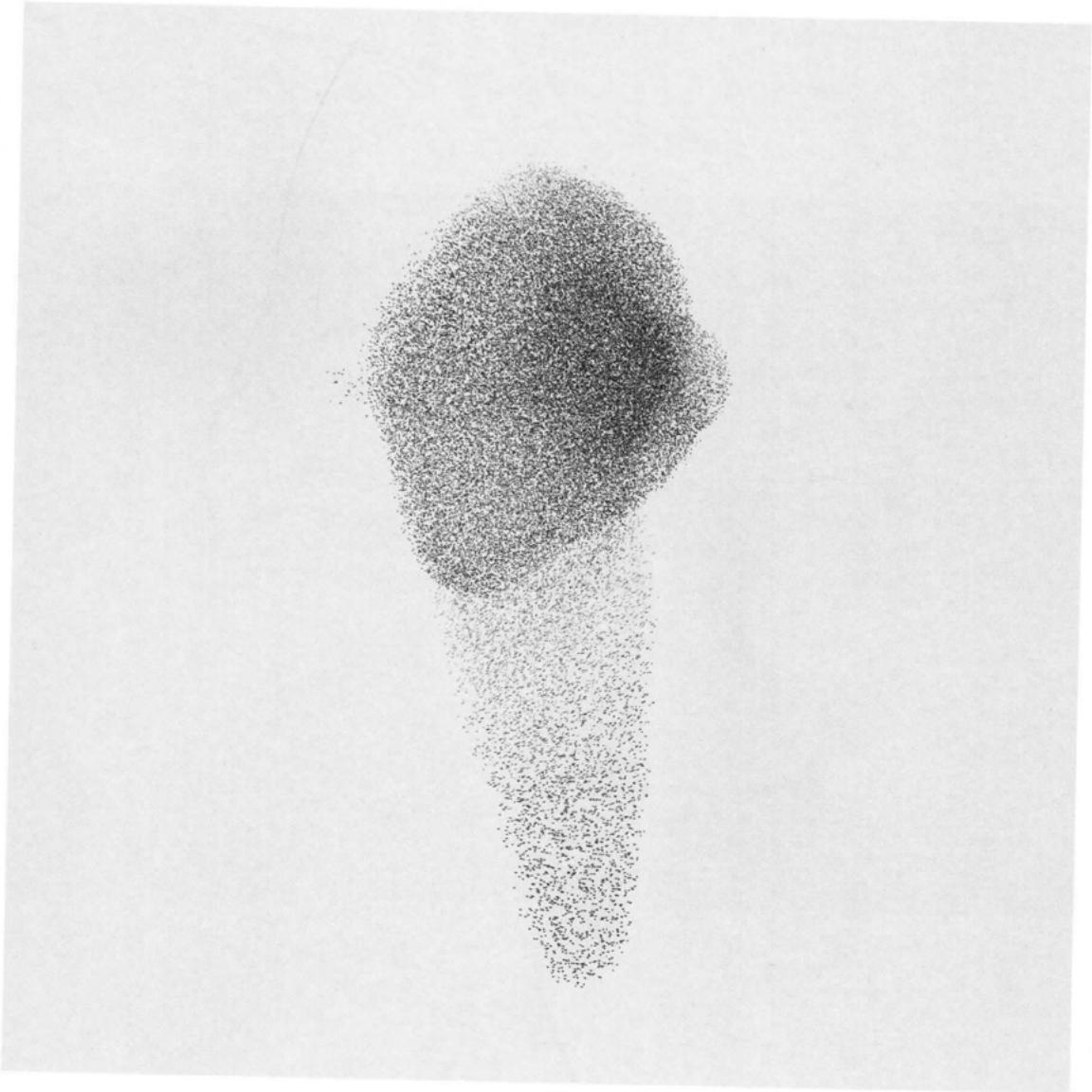
Starling Murmuration 83
Daniel Dencescu



La dolce vita.

With these series I want to reveal the hidden beauty of common things shown from an unusual perspective of an elegant dance.

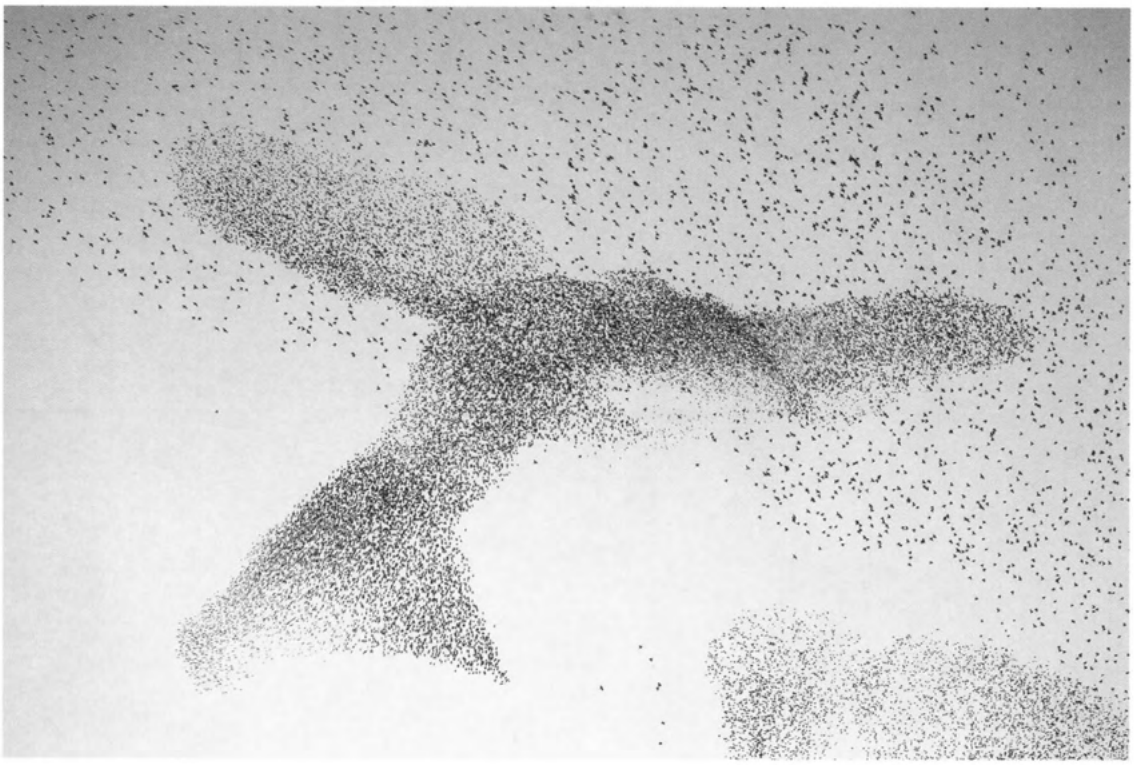
Starling Murmuration 90
Daniel Dencescu



I shoot most of my starling murmurations under a cloudless, clear sky to have an uncluttered background. Every photographic journey requires intense preparation and research, among other things to find the perfect location. I have spent over 200 hours photographing starling murmurations – in the fields of Germany, Denmark, Holland and Italy. The images are not manipulated in any way.

The images do not have names in the traditional sense. The viewer should use his imagination and not be influenced by a name. I do not want to induce a unique and single, valid meaning of forms, but to leave room for free interpretation. In a minimalistic style, I focus on reduced compositions, lines and shapes. It is primarily important to me to express this indescribable beauty in my series of images.

Starling Murmuration 95
Daniel Dencescu



DANIEL DENCESCU

Daniel Dencescu is a Romanian-German artist, interested in the poetry of the ordinary, always searching for expression in the commonly overlooked scenes that surround us.

www.danielde.de