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BURROWS

## The Telegraph

Crystal clear: Frida Fjellman collaborates with NetJets for Art Basel Miami Beach



Frida Fjellman in her studio with pieces from her Crystal Atmosphere, commissioned by NetJets for Art Basel 2017 CREDIT: NATHAN GALLAGHER

**C**rystal sceptic or not, visitors to the NetJets VIP

lounge at Art Basel, Miami Beach can't fail to have been soothed by the Crystal Atmosphere installation by Swedish craft artist Frida Fjellman. This year was the 16th time the private aviation company has partnered with Art Basel and their lounge - screened off from the general Collector's Lounge - was dominated by a series of giant prism-shaped glass lights in a variety of shades, strung from the ceiling like jewels on pretty brass chains.



Frida Fjellman in the NetJets lounge CREDIT: CHARLES ROUSSEL

These lanterns, glass-blown in both opaque and clear glass with the light source programmed to slowly pulsate, generated a calming dreamlike ambience - which was the artist's intention. "I was interested in exploring the magical sense of tranquility that you experience when

cruising above the clouds," the pink-haired Fjellman explains, "flying is perhaps one of the few oasis of calm in our hyper-connected digital society. The idea is that people come in, relax, sink down in their seats and rest a bit."

Fjellman's installation follows Rebecca Louise Law's meditative carpet of meadow flowers that hovered above heads in last year's lounge. It seems NetJets are only too aware that even the most ardent art collectors require some respite when confronted with the supermarket-like aisles of visual stimuli at Art Basel.



Crystal Atmosphere at the NetJets lounge, Art Basel, South Miami

This collaboration came about after NetJet's representatives spotted Fjellman's enchanting oversized chandeliers at the booth of her New York gallery Hostler Burrows, during last year's smaller sister fair, Design Miami. Fjellman was inundated with a flurry of emails following the fair, so much so that it took three email approaches from NetJets before she recognised it as a serious commission.





Frida Fjellman installing her Crystal Atmosphere in the NetJet's lounge at Art Basel CREDIT: NATHAN GALLAGHER

Fjellman headed to the Kingdom of Crystal and the recently revived Boda Glass factory in Småland, southern Sweden, to create the 100 prisms that comprise the installation. It was a two-month process: "This is not a natural shape for glass, they're formed using iron molds. The larger prisms take around one hour with three people working intensely on them, they then have to cool for 24 hours. The smallest take around half an hour. Clear glass is fastest, but opaque colour takes extra time because it can crack more easily."



Frida Fjellman working on her crystal lights in the Boda Glass Factory CREDIT: NATHAN GALLAGHER

A fine art graduate of Konstfack (Stockholm university), clay was Fjellman's first love, her father taking her to local ceramics classes when she was a child. Later studies at The Corning Studio in New York and Washington's Pilchuck School of Glass saw her move into working with neon, lighting and glass.

Known for her mythical Scandinavian art pieces that incorporate life-size ceramic animals, she conceived her first prismatic chandelier to complete a tableau of woodland creatures as part of her 2008 exhibition *Nocturnal Dreams*. "I needed something exaggerated as a centerpiece," she told us, "a reinterpretation of the chandelier - something a little magical."

Frida Fjellman's Crystal Atmosphere for NetJets VIP lounge at Art Basel

Video Link:

[https://youtu.be/yL45yEw\\_dQI](https://youtu.be/yL45yEw_dQI)

Fjellman's collaboration with NetJets also included the installation of several large chandeliers for the outdoor terrace of the Four Seasons at the Surf Club. Art Basel may be over, but admirers of her work can look forward to a solo show next spring with Hostler Burrows at New York's The Armory Show, otherwise you can invest in her ceramic or glass treasures via private commission.