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New Yorkers are used to the sirens of their habitat. But what if car alarms were just another species of organic song? From this quixotic premise comes Nina Katchadourian's public-art project "Natural Car Alarms," sponsored by the Sculpture Center and migrating through Queens, from MOMA QNS to the Sculpture Center, Socrates Sculpture Park, and P.S. 1. Katchadourian's rigged cars are identifiable only by their sunny-yellow bumper stickers and windshield decals of birds. But once the flock starts squawking, chirping, and shrieking, heads snap around in double and triple takes. Through Sept. 22. (For dates and locations, call 718-361-1750, or visit sculpture-center.org.)



A public-art project by Nina Katchadourian replaces car alarms with taped birdsong. Now parked near P.S. 1 Contemporary Art Center, the piece travels to other Queens curbsides throughout the summer (see Galleries–Queens).