

Kristian Häggblom
Suomi

beam contemporary

23 september – 8 october 2011

“As contemporary societies would be unimaginable without the photograph, they would be unrecognizable without tourism”

Peter Osborne, *Travelling Light: Photography, Travel and Visual Culture*, 2000

Suomi is a photographic exhibition that explores the interconnected relationships between people, places and the environment and the consequent interaction of society, space and nature. Landscape as a cultural construct is nature for the taking, to be tamed, framed and contained for human consumption. These photographs are an extension of Häggblom’s PhD research that visually documents Australian touristscapes and investigates what we - as visitors - physically and psychologically gain from touristic experiences. Häggblom spent three months on Suomenlinna, an island just off central Helsinki, in what is believed to be the coldest winter in 60 years and produced this new series of images. Although people don’t figure prominently within the whitewashed landscapes, the imagery hints at human habitation and evokes Häggblom’s isolation.

Suomenlinna was a former strategic military post that has been governed by Russia, Sweden and Finland and is now a UNSECO listed tourist attraction. The fortress is not simply a museum, but a living community, and today there are about 900 permanent inhabitants on the island, and 350 people work there year round. There is also a minimum-security penal labor colony whose inmates work on the maintenance and reconstruction of the fortifications. When the snow begins to melt in spring and throughout summer, locals and tourists alike flock to Suomenlinna to picnic, attend festivals and sample the island-brewed beer. In winter shops lay dormant and the few tourists who visit don’t wander far from the ferry.

Kristian Häggblom is a lecturer in Visual Arts and Honours coordinator at La Trobe University, Mildura campus. He studied photography at RMIT (BA) and the University of Tasmania (Honours), and is currently a PhD candidate at Monash University. Häggblom has exhibited extensively including exhibitions in Melbourne, Darwin, Tokyo, Lausanne and Los Angeles in addition to curating several cross-cultural international exhibitions. www.kristianhaggblom.com

HIAP | Suomenlinna
Sveaborg
Kaapeli
Cable Factory



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beam contemporary

level 1, 30 guildford lane melbourne victoria 3000 australia
wednesday to saturday 12 – 6

info@beamcontemporary.com.au | www.beamcontemporary.com.au | +61 3670 4443

Kristian Häggblom *Suomi*

List of Works

Main Gallery clockwise from left to right



Suomi, Steps, 2011
Pigment Print. 110 x 134cm.
Edition of 5 + 1AP

\$3,025
framed



Suomi, Mound, 2011
Pigment Print. 110 x 134cm.
Edition of 5 + 1AP

\$3,025
framed



Suomi, Black Line 2011
Pigment Print. 110 x 134cm.
Edition of 5 + 1AP

\$3,025
framed



Suomi, Baltic Ocean Walkers #1, 2011
Pigment Print. 110 x 134cm.
Edition of 5 + 1AP

\$3,025
framed



Suomi, Baltic Ocean Walkers #2, 2011
Pigment Print. 110 x 134cm.
Edition of 5 + 1AP

\$3,025
framed



Suomi, Cracked Ocean, 2011
Pigment Print. 110 x 134cm.
Edition of 5 + 1AP

\$3,025
framed

Alcove



Suomi, Cave #1, 2011
Pigment Print. 74 x 93cm.
Edition of 5 + 1AP

\$1650
framed

*** All prices include GST**

All enquiries, please contact Kyle Weise or Britt Salt:

info@beamcontemporary.com.au



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