

**KRISTIAN HAGGBLOM:
SUOMI**

KRISTIAN Haggblom's photographs of Arctic Finland were shot during a three-month stay on the tourist island of Suomenlinna, just off the coast of Helsinki, documenting what was said to be the coldest winter in six decades. But Haggblom doesn't retread the well-worn trope of dramatic landscape photography — far from it. There is something unsettling about these images. A jetty-side railing leads straight down into solid, mute ice; a vista of the Baltic Sea resembles that of an ice-strewn plane; a small group of lonely figures dance on the frozen, snow-piled sea. His oceans and atmospheres of blinding white are spliced with the activities and evidence, not just of the everyday, but the iconography of tourism photography — the ocean vista and people at play. That these photographs are taken in the "off season" — amid frigid extremes — raises questions of the nature of

tourism's relationship to the landscape on which it treads.

**Wed to Sat noon-6pm, until October 8,
Beam Contemporary, level 1, 30
Guildford Lane, city, 9670 4443,
beamcontemporary.com.au**

by Dan Rule

The Age

Life and Style, p.5

Saturday 1 October, 2011