

Snapshot: 'Summit' by Jules Spinatsch

The photographer's images of ski slopes at night explore the relationship between nature, machinery and spectatorship



'Arena Scene S1' (2006) © Jules Spinatsch

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JANUARY 5, 2018

For the Romantic poets, the Alps were the pinnacle of sublime natural wonder. Yet here the photographer Jules Spinatsch portrays the mountain range as it is now best known: a place of spectacle and artifice transformed by technology for the leisure tourism industry.

A Swiss native, who grew up in the mountains where his parents ran ski resort restaurants, Spinatsch creates a new mythology for the famous landscape. The barren terrain is like a still from an old science-fiction film and snow machines, lined up like army tanks, suggest a militaristic relationship between man and nature.

Yet Spinatsch's vision is not intended to be apocalyptic. Instead, his work is a meditation on photography itself, which alters external worlds for our profound contemplation. Today's "decisive moments", he says, "are not

happening while taking pictures but before and after.”

‘SUMMIT’ is at the Christophe GUYE Galerie, Zurich, from January 24 to April 21



'Unit PAMM' (2005) © Jules Spinatsch



'Scene D13' (2004) © Jules Spinatsch



'Scene I2M, Innsbruck' (2005) © Jules Spinatsch



'Unit EWD' (2008) © Jules Spinatsch

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