

Dede Johnston | Crowded Slope Series

Artist's Statement

"In this series, I explore the tension between man's attempt to shape the alpine environment and our vulnerability confronted with an inability to control its natural forces.

In contrast with 19th century Romantics who were awed by the mysterious power of nature and poignantly aware of man's relative insignificance, the expanding leisure class of the past century has attempted to tame these forces and create a recreational safety zone.

Ski resorts with easy accessibility, urban density and architecture, snowmaking, piste grooming and avalanche blasting, create an illusion of security. The predictability bordering on absurdity of human behavior is apparent in skiers' desire to herd together, move as a pack and remain within a comfort zone, avoiding 'forbidden' areas. As a microcosm of human behavior, this highlights man's urge to socialize, colonize and dominate versus the Romantic quest for solitary and contemplative experiences."



Dede Johnston | *Crowded Slopes II*, 2008 | Digital C-type print on Fuji Crystal Archive diasec mount | Signed certificate of authenticity | Edition of 5 | 101.6 x 127 cm

View a selection of photographs from this series at www.tagfinearts.com/dede-johnston.html

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