

**Tim Simmons**

*Intervention: Snow*

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Tim Simmons has been experimenting with illuminating the night for twenty years. He is an established commercial photographer with an extensive portfolio of clients who want him to place their products within one of his out-of-this-world landscapes. Alongside these commissions, Simmons has developed his own projects working almost exclusively at night, photographing vignettes of suburbia, forests, quarries, and in this latest series, the snow-covered Norwegian countryside.

Due to their extensive production values, Simmons' exotic images engage the viewer and prompt an initial rejection of their photographic veracity. The saturated tones, high contrast, and deliberately unnatural lighting are reminiscent of video games, and instantly take the viewer into another dimension: A quarry becomes the surface of another planet; a rock seaside rock-pool becomes a lake surrounded by mountains. In addition to their resemblance to images from popular culture, his technique of multiple, yet unidentified light-sources, disorients the viewer and prompts a sense of the uncanny. Simmons' earlier photo-roman, *Brief Encounters* reveals the full extent of his passion for science fiction. However, this *Snow* series, comprising of 12 images, holds-back from the melodrama of his earlier work: Slightly less production, with a familiar "straight" documentary-style camera angle creates a more considered tension which has a mystique, far beyond simply a novelty value.