

John Riddy

The encroachment of urban architectural spaces into areas of natural beauty is at the heart of the work of John Riddy (b 1959). In his series of layered compositions, “Views from Shin Fuji” (2005), he explores the relationship between the old and the new in Japan, traditional and modern landscapes, the natural and the artificial. The small and unspectacular town of Shin-Fuji with its power cables, pylons and unremarkable buildings coexists with the tranquil, iconic beauty of Mount Fuji, always placed as a precise point of reference in the background. His view is not pessimistic (the stark red placed against the bright blue sky and dramatic cloud ensures this) but examines the relationship evolving over time between town and mountain, people and nature, architectural and natural environments ..... Is Shin-Fuji living in the shadow of Mount Fuji or is the town blighting the iconic mountain ?

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