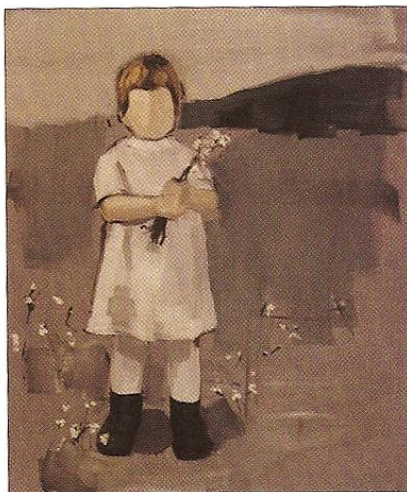


Gideon Rubin

Alon Segev

Tel Aviv

For this show, titled "Family Album," exploring the connection between family and history, Gideon Rubin painted his subjects from photos that were taken between the World Wars, which he purchased on eBay. His selections tend toward amateur snapshots of people engaging in everyday activities, with the majority showing children at play. He



Gideon Rubin, *Kew Gardens 1929, 2008*, oil on linen, 48" x 40". Alon Segev.

stresses the anonymity of these individuals by leaving the portraits faceless.

Rubin, who handles paint in a manner that recalls Luc Tuymans, rendered the images for this show at around 40 inches to a side on canvas or at slightly more than a foot square on corrugated cardboard. The smaller works, in which attention is concentrated on single models, have a more immediate impact. One standout painting shows a boy, possibly in his first suit, sitting awkwardly on a step, his feet cut off by the frame.

Painted in faded pastel tones, these scenes convey a calmness that was jarringly interrupted when the viewer came upon two large paintings of children wearing gas masks, a foreshadowing of events to come. The juxtapositions of the banal and the extraordinary shifted the viewer's attention from the generic to the specific and helped raise a broad range of questions: What is the meaning of family? Who is the boy posing for? Are the images more or less emotionally charged because we cannot know the subjects' identities? And, where will our own images come to rest?

—Amy Simon