

Ed Templeton
Synthetic Suburbia

April 25 - May 30, 2015

Opening Reception Saturday April 25th, 6-8pm

"*Synthetic Suburbia* is a culmination of years of looking at the place where I live and the peculiarity of it. I have travelled all over the world and there is no place as strange as Huntington Beach."



Ed Templeton *Man Waters Lawn, Suburbia, 2014*
Acrylic on panel 30 x 47.75 in (76.2 x 121.29 cm)

Primarily known as a photographer documenting the people and culture surrounding the iconic pier in Huntington Beach, California, Ed Templeton's *Synthetic Suburbia* is a survey of new paintings and drawings directly inspired from this emersion into his coastal suburban environment. *Synthetic Suburbia* extends Templeton's diaristic observances into a compelling visual analysis of the concrete experiences, perceptions, and idiosyncrasies of this hyper-local existence.

"I'm obsessed with watching people walking along the sidewalks here, and of course the whole circus of humanity down at the beach. The young girls, the old men in rascal scooters, bike riders and their shadows."

The stylized figurative works are deceptively simplified: uncomplicated displays of contemporary portraits - hybridized composites of people Templeton sees on his daily drives and walks about town - inhabiting their own private worlds. Templeton has constructed suburbia as paradise, with visions of perfectly manicured lawns, pretty girls-next-door, idyllic beach views, and the walls quietly demarcating people off from one another.

"As a young boy visiting my grandparents (who lived in Huntington Beach), I would always be able to tell when we were close to their house because suddenly there would be mile after mile of road where it's just the street, a sidewalk, then a wall surrounding a tract of homes. I would exclaim, 'We are in Huntington Beach now!' and they would ask me how I knew and I would respond, 'Because of the walls.'"

Ubiquitous to the point of being invisible, these walls and fences have become a recurring theme in his work.

"What is hidden behind them, and the false front they represent is interesting to me. Behind all of these nicely painted houses and planned communities are humans and all the thorny issues that come with them."

Templeton positions himself as a voyeur looking into the world he inhabits; we the viewer are as just as complicit in enjoying this semi-confrontational gaze.

Ed Templeton (born 1972) is an iconic figure in the subculture of skateboarding. His paintings, photographs, drawings, and mixed-media installations take their inspiration from the skate community he is a part of and the suburban environment in which he lives. A mid-career survey of his work entitled *The Cemetery of Reason* traveled throughout Europe to three museums in 2010. Publications of his work include ten monographic and his many self-published zines. His work has been shown at the Museum of Contemporary Art Los Angeles, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, S.M.A.K. Museum, Belgium, Bonnefanten Museum, Holland, Kunsthalle, Vienna, and Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, UK. *Synthetic Suburbia* marks Templeton's sixth solo exhibition with Roberts & Tilton.

For additional information, please contact Camille Weiner at camille@robertsandtilton.com, 323.549.0223. or robertsandtilton.com

For more information on Ed Templeton: ed-templeton.com

Gallery hours are Tuesday - Saturday, 11:00am - 6:00pm.

Roberts & Tilton is located between Fairfax Avenue and La Cienega Boulevard.

Parking is available on the street and at Dunn Edwards located 1/2 block east of the gallery.