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The Past and the Land in Detail

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The Past and the Land in Detail

Recent photography exhibitions of Neil Folberg and at the Korea Society.



Neil Folberg/Flomenhaft Gallery

Neil Folberg's 'Timna Valley' (2011) at Flomenhaft Gallery

Neil Folberg: *Topography/Time/Israel*

Flomenhaft Gallery

547 W. 27th St., (212) 268-4952

Through Dec. 15

The camera Neil Folberg used to photograph the landscapes at Flomenhaft has a digital back made by an Israeli company, Leaf, that captures 80 megabytes of information. This produces prints of spectacular detail;

incredibly small sheep and people are clearly discernible on the hillside in "Michmash Valley, Grazing" (2012) even though they would have been lost in a picture shot at such a distance with any other camera. As the valley recedes in the distance, each successive hill is distinct. The effect is a convincing sense of depth and an uncanny reality; the unanticipated clarity lets us see the land as if for the first time.

Mr. Folberg lowered the color saturation in most of these prints; in some, like "Nahal Zavitan" (2012), to the point of reducing it to black and white. This desert scene consequently has an archaic quality, primitive, inhospitable, but enduring. The cattle and trees on the plain in "Golan Fog" (2012) are minuscule under the towering banks of clouds rendered in neatly varying shades of gray. The rocks in "Nahsholim Stormy Coast" (2012) have been pitted by eons of waves, and the Leaf captures time's etching with meticulous precision. Mr. Folberg understands that technology opens up possibilities, and uses it here to infuse his images of an ancient land with a temporal dimension.