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FEBRUARY 23, 2009

GALLERIES-CHELSEA

DAVID DIAO

Thirty-five paintings form an eloquent meditation on memory and loss. The show's title, "I lived there until I was 6 ...," refers to Diao's childhood home in China, which was confiscated by the Communists in 1949, an event that drove his family into exile. Diao reconstructs the lost time and place using maps, flags, Google Earth photographs, texts (both English and Chinese), and floor plans of the house, drawn by his relatives. A tennis court—there was one on the grounds of the house, and his father died in the midst of a game in New York—becomes talismanic, as do ginkgo leaves. Isolated phrases ("One suitcase per person") have the power of poetry as they conjure the tidal pulls of home. Through Feb. 21. (Postmasters, 459 W. 19th St. 212-727-3323.)