Six Playing Train and Then There Was One

2003. Inkjet pigment print on canvas.

David Feinberg, with drawing and painting contributions from Joe Grosnacht, survivor, and the following artists: Emily Widi, Ryan Friar and Ann Cossette.

The imagery for Six Playing Train and Then There Was One is derived from Joe's response to word-stimulus. We gave Joe a phrase or word and asked him to create a drawing in 30 seconds. For this piece, 20 drawings were made on index cards from which three were chosen.

Joe chose one drawing based on the phrase “a crowd”, in which he drew the guards' and civilian workers' children playing just outside of the concentration camp fence. The second drawing was from the phrase 'a place to hide' and resulted in a drawing of trees.

In another session, Joe was asked to draw something inside of his childhood home. He drew six chairs that he and his 5 brothers used to play train with. In the upper left hand quarter of this painting Joe drew the chairs. He placed an image of himself on the first chair. The remaining chairs are left empty. When asked why he didn't draw his younger brothers in the chairs he responded, “They didn't survive”.