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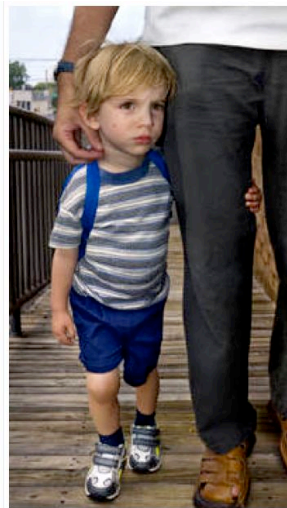
Your Culture Guide »

ART: Photography

Issue 195

Ben Gest

Chicago June 10-16, 2008



Ben Gest, *William*, Courtesy Stephen Daiter Gallery



Ben Gest, *Emitt and Henry*, Courtesy Stephen Daiter Gallery

Ben Gest's portraits of friends and family are carefully orchestrated to seem totally improvised. But where like-minded photographers Sally Mann, Tina Barney, and Alec Soth work closely with their subjects, Gest makes his tweaks after the fact, digitally altering his images to construct idealized compositions. In his new series, Gest captures the whimsical moments of childhood and adolescence along with the quiet tranquility of late adulthood. The photographs are almost the same size as their subjects, creating a haunting effect that elevates the intimate images and makes events seem as if they are unfolding before the viewer.

— *Rachel Adams*