Artist Resources – Reuven Rubin (Israeli, 1893-1974)

The Reuven Rubin Museum, in Tel Aviv, Israel, is home to the largest collection of Rubin’s work in addition to a research center and archive, foundation, and catalogue raisonné. The museum was built in 1930 on the site of Rubin’s home and studio, at the direction of the artist’s will.

Rubin at Bineth Art Gallery, Jerusalem

Rubin at Belooseky Gallery, New York

Rubin’s political life and international significance has received attention from the Adamovskiy Foundation, the Center for Israel Education, and the U.S. Department of State.

In 2020, Rubin’s service as an Israeli Ambassador to Romania was commemorated with a plaque by the current ambassador David Saranga.
Reuven Rubin (Israeli, 1893-1974)
*Seder Scene*, 1949
Oil on canvas

Private Collection; L2020:132.1

Romania-born painter Reuven Rubin was a celebrated leader of the artistic and political communities in Jerusalem, where he attended art school in 1912. After continuing his studies in Paris and the United States, Rubin returned to the ancient city in the early 1920s, exhibiting prominently and serving as Israel’s first ambassador to Romania from 1948 to 1950. Rubin remained heavily influenced by his time in Europe and North America, visualizing his religious and cultural identities through landscapes, portraits, and genres scenes that reflect the styles of Marc Chagall, Henri Rousseau, and Vincent van Gogh, among others. Rubin’s signature also reflects his multicultural perspective, his first name Hebrew and his surname in the Roman alphabet.

The muted yet vibrant *Seder Scene* gives a serene glimpse of the ritual dinner, *Seder*, which commemorates the beginning of the Jewish celebration of Passover. Seated outside the walls of Jerusalem, the gathering also commemorates the Israeli Declaration of Independence, establishing the State of Israel on May 14, 1948. Among the attendees are two Israeli soldiers, placed at the center as reminders of the recent War of Independence; to their immediate left sits the aging artist holding his son David. Draped in white robes with his palms open on the table at the far left rests the solemn figure of Jesus.

*On view April 28 – August 1, 2021*