

# Emanuel Walter Gallery

Paintings and Sculpture by  
Judith Linhares  
The Adaline Kent Exhibition  
January 10 - February 22  
Daily, 10 am - 4 pm

## Notes on the Exhibition:

Each year since 1958 the San Francisco Art Institute has presented to a "talented, deserving and promising California artist" an award of \$1000. and a solo exhibition to honor the memory of Adaline Kent. Past recipients of this award include Frank Lobdell, Bruce Conner, Robert Hudson, Manuel Neri, William T. Wiley, Jim Melchert, Howard Fried, Carlos Villa, and Joan Brown. Judith Linhares has been chosen to receive the 1975 Adaline Kent Award.

Judith Linhares was born in Pasadena, California in 1940, was raised in Newhall and later Manhattan Beach, and in 1960 moved to the Bay Area to attend the California College of Arts and Crafts. Since receiving her Master of Fine Arts degree she has taught painting throughout the Bay Area, currently serving on the faculty of the California College of Arts and Crafts and Lone Mountain College. Ms. Linhares lives and maintains a studio in the Noe Valley district of San Francisco.

A hard working and constantly evolving artist, Judith Linhares has recently concentrated on the expression of personal feelings through the use of strong visual symbols, attempting to retrieve symbols from the subconscious through disciplined introspection. In a recent interview she described this process as "visualizing pictures which I associate with certain feelings instead of forcing a rational verbal communication. It has made me aware

of how much I hallucinate and how many pictures are running through my head constantly. Because I'm visually oriented, it was a relief to me to be able to know myself through pictures because the pictures come easily to me."

The paintings and sculpture in this exhibition are the visual products of her personal explorations: the confrontation between creative and destructive forces or good and evil, dealt with in a subjective and narrative manner. An exemplary series, done as paintings on paper, depicts a child-like heroine and the devil. As the series progresses, the child grows larger and the devil diminishes, each painting is full of object-symbols such as toys, shells, boats, moons, and spiral forms which are among the recurrent subconscious images the artist has observed in her personal search. Another series, black and white paintings on paper, is a metaphorical scenario dealing with the relationships between men and women and featuring the unlikely cast of Shelley Winters and Abraham Lincoln.

Many of the larger paintings are self-portraits; they again depict the confrontation between good and evil while alluding to the process of self-discovery. The works demonstrate the extent to which powerful symbols can be effectively used: the skeleton, and especially the skull-form, symbolizes the paradoxical being, a figure of terror, evil, and death, yet appearing in an almost carnival spirit.

Other images in the large paintings are the products of dreams, hallucinations, and subjective personal studies stimulated by the artist's familiarity with myths and fairy-tales. They stem from an elevated state of consciousness which Ms. Linhares describes as "a feeling of being total, where things

reduce to their most basic natures or principles...It's a very energizing and creative state."

The snake and fan paintings are formal, archetypal works which link to earlier symmetrical paintings of arranged objects contained by intricate borders as exhibited at the San Francisco Museum of Art in 1973. The symbols and content of the new paintings relate closely to the sculptures in this exhibition as well: they were created in a pragmatic fashion out of wire, glass, fabric, resin, and various ceramic supplies.

The depth and intensity of her commitment to her art as a process of personal discovery places Judith Linhares in the mainstream of the tradition of artistic independence which has exemplified the art of this region for many decades. Her contribution is recognized by her peers in choosing her to receive the Adaline Kent Award.

Philip Linhares  
Director of Exhibitions