

# Judith Linhares

Rowing in Eden

*Edward Thorp Gallery*

*210 11th Avenue, at 24th Street,  
Chelsea*

*Through April 22*

Using wide brushes, generous quantities of paint and lush colors, Judith Linhares creates enchanting pictures of a goofy never-never land populated by bands of naked young women and magical animals. If you did not know that Ms. Linhares was included in the landmark "Bad Painting" exhibition at the New Museum in 1978, you could initially mistake her for a follower of the young expressionist painter Dana Schutz. Knowing her history, you might conclude that Ms. Linhares has been an unacknowledged inspiration for many of today's younger artists. Regardless of which way the generational influences have flowed, Ms. Linhares certainly has tapped into her own rambunctious and starry-eyed inner child to wonderfully infectious effect.

The naked girl gangs sitting in the branches of a big tree or roasting marshmallows over a blazing fire; the big, mystically radiant Cubist rabbit; the deer leaping over the running wolf: such dreamy images convey the feeling of a psyche intensely alive to its own energies and possibilities. You sense that excitement in the paint itself, which Ms. Linhares applies with hedonistic, controlled abandon.

One room of the gallery holds a series of flower still lifes that look like collaborations between Marsden Hartley and Charles Burchfield. They are smaller and more restrained formally than the narrative pictures, but they have their own punchy exuberance.

KEN JOHNSON