

EDWARD THORP GALLERY
Press Release

JUDITH LINHARES
RIPTIDE
February 25 – April 2, 2011
Opening reception: Friday, February 25, 6-8 p.m.

Edward Thorp Gallery will present an exhibition of new paintings by Judith Linhares.

The artist has become known for paintings in which she constructs fantastical and playful narratives. Her unique palette employs intense hues of complimentary colors combined with a physical paint application where she manipulates her medium to operate in a corporal sense. With these expressive techniques, she creates mythologies of painterly complexity that contain dark and rebellious subject matter, tinged with humor.

In these new works, the artist continues to create bold and intuitive paintings depicting worlds shrouded in an ambiguous narrative ominously shifting between foreboding and wit. In a recent work *Wave* from 2010, three female figures cavorting by a shoreline, buck-naked taking in the sun, are suddenly discovered by an onlooker. As though startled by the realization of being watched this vision of pleasure begins to sour. The sense of threat is augmented by giant waves approaching which engulf the swimmer as the sunset begins to radiate with a nuclear red.

Although clearly imaginary, there is a distinct sense of place and time perceptible throughout these idylls, reflecting an authentic inquiry of nature and the environment. Both forceful and elusive, employing an abstract language with compelling narrative drive, these works represent a unique experience of inner life in an Eden of ritual, beauty and societal complexity.