

**“Between Picture and Viewer: The Image In Contemporary Painting”**

**Visual Arts Gallery of the School of Visual Arts**

**November 23, 2010**

**Curated by Tom Huhm and Isabel Taube**

**Isabel Taube: catalogue essay page 54.**

**Judith Linhares - Cove, 2010, oil on linen, 53 X 67 inches, plate 13.**

Both Judith Linhares and Inka Essenhigh paint fantastical pictures that convey images generated by the imagination. Despite their differing approaches to altering reality, they make paintings that suggest there are few, if any, limitations to the image, which has the potential to fuel creativity and liberate the beholder. Linhares seeks to make images that lodge in the memory.<sup>9</sup> Her paintings of male and female nudes in nature belong to yet critique the rule-bound tradition of the academic nude in art. The bright colors and distorted forms in her images balance a carefree, celebratory feeling with a sense of anxiety and impending danger. In *Cove* (2010) (Plate 13), two female nudes appear to relax in a rocky, coastal setting under a burning sun and sky. However, they look like odalisques gone wrong, particularly the red-haired woman with bulbous breasts lying at a downward angle in the foreground. Her awkward pose and blank expression are disturbing and leave the viewer wondering about the outcome of this scene. Linhares' images ultimately seem like fantastical dreams verging on nightmares.