

Working Proof



Judith Linhares, *Stepping Out*, monotype (29-1/2x41-1/2 in.), 1997. Courtesy Pelavin Editions.

Judith Linhares, *Roses, Big Cats I & II, Stepping Out, American Leopard, Gnome, Pagoda I & II, Chick, Daffodils I & II, Pansies I & II, Large Tiger, and Monarch* (all 1997), a series of 15 monotypes. Each measures 23x30-1/2 in. or 30-1/2x23 in. (image) and 29-1/2x41-1/2 in. or 41-1/2x29-1/2 in. (paper) and was printed on Rives BFK paper by Cheryl Pelavin at Pelavin Editions, New York. Artist Judith Linhares made a splash last year in an exhibition at Ed Thorpe Gallery in New York, where she showed big, strange paintings of animals and circus tents with a faux-naïve quality. But their execution, like that of this series of monotypes done in oil colors, betrays a knowing hand that deftly exploits brushstrokes and color to impart to her offbeat, even funny, subjects a compelling poignancy and vulnerability. Ever start to laugh and wind up crying? Look at these creatures and flowers—a huge chick “stepping out” with its shrimpy brethren; haunch-heavy tigers on pedestals with a big bouncing ball above their heads, as if on a dare; pansies with big, splashy faces, and daffodils vigorously waving. All are parading in a mood of confidence that seems to be eroding even as you look. This is monotype at its best, with all its characteristic liveliness and immediacy. Price: \$2,500 each. Published by Pelavin Editions, New York.