

**Related Events:**

All events are free and open to the public.

**Exhibition Reception**

Sunday, February 8, 3 – 5 pm

**Art Thing**

Tuesday, April 7, 6 - 7 pm

The artist and curator will talk informally about the exhibition.

**About the artist:**

Linda Cohn holds an MFA in painting from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and a BFA and MA in printmaking from Bradley University. She was an Artist-in-Residence at Ragdale Foundation and the Ox-Bow School of Painting & Sculpture. As an archaeological draftsman for the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, she documented a New Kingdom temple in Luxor, Egypt, for preservation purposes. Cohn’s work has been exhibited in 58 solo and group shows at venues including the Pratt Graphics Center, the Art Institute of Chicago, American University in Cairo, Department of Cultural Affairs in Savannah, Georgia, and the Rockford Art Museum. Her work is also in numerous public and private collections in the United States. Currently, she teaches drawing and painting at the Hyde Park Art Center. For more information, visit [www.LindaCohnArt.com](http://www.LindaCohnArt.com).

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**Hyde Park ARTCENTER**

**5020 South Cornell Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60615 773.324.5520 [www.hydeparkart.org](http://www.hydeparkart.org)**

The Hyde Park Art Center is a not-for-profit organization that presents innovative exhibitions, primarily work by Chicago-area artists, and educational programs in the visual arts for children and adults of diverse backgrounds. The Center is funded in part by the Alphawood Foundation; The Chicago Community Trust; a City Arts III grant from the City of Chicago’s Department of Cultural Affairs and the Illinois Arts Council; The Lloyd A. Fry Foundation; The Leo S. Guthman Fund; The Irving Harris Foundation; The Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; The Joyce Foundation; JPMorgan Chase Foundation; The Mayer & Morris Kaplan Family Foundation; The MacArthur Foundation; The MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at Prince; The Orbit Fund; Polk Bros. Foundation; The Clinton Family Fund; The Sara Lee Foundation; South East Chicago Commission; The Wallace Foundation; and the generosity of its members and friends.

Hyde Park**ARTCENTER**  
**Gallery 5**  
February 8 – May 24, 2009

***Night Train***  
**New paintings by Linda Cohn**



*Kinnaree*, 2008-2009, oil, acrylic, ink, and gouache on canvas  
72 x 108 inches



*Pulse (detail)*, 2008-2009  
charcoal, oil, and acrylic  
on canvas  
72 x 108 inches

Cohn's three large-format triptychs reveal an evolving tracery of psychic and physical growth: pre-conception, birth, searching, knowledge, death. The panels explore relationships between primordial abstract forming and sharp, clear-eyed reality which then dissolve again into the haze of memory. If the viewer looks carefully, many flickers of sub-consciousness will surface and then disappear, as in the hidden heads of *She-va* or the inhabitants of *Kinnaree*. The sub-conscious often opens into horrors as well as unknown support. Her varied use of color depicts lit yellow skies, dark base intestines of life, hot reds and oranges of creation, and the quiet recessive blues and grays of an unknown.

With simplicity and insight, Linda Cohn deliberately guides us through realms of our forgotten selves, with paintings revealing innocence, fantasies, fears, second sights, and subconscious hidden knowledge. We are glad for her company, as the worlds she traverses, while so familiar, are rarely brought into focus. Her talent brings the nuance of our self-travel to recognizable form, both realistic and abstract forming and unforming.

The exhibition *Night Train* visualizes exactly such explorations. The title is taken from a Duke Ellington song, a jazz riff which crystallized for Cohn the hidden ways and occasionally frantic, fragmented details of living, the night realizations of the moving train of day, the constant circularity.



*She-va (detail)*, 2008-2009  
charcoal, oil, and acrylic on canvas  
72 x 108 inches

*Pulse* is a realistic yet highly abstracted portrayal of the chaotic, expulsive initial separation of one from another life. Hold and release, reality and devolution are shown by three monkey infants, who are simply here and then process onward. The highly symbolic, simplified, egg-shaped eternal mother can be found in the upper left corner.

*She-va* depicts the action of the necessity and responsibility for identification of others, herself not being defined. She is surrounded by happenings and significations. Disembodied heads of varying degrees of resolution, weigh heavily on her and she bows her head in acceptance.

*Kinnaree* is from the Himalayas. A mythical bird-woman, she flies over immense Himmepan, mythical mountains that our paths might wander through. Although she has gained enough knowledge and self-identity to be free, she is always in danger of losing her wings through mortal theft. Freedom can be lost.

Cohn travels as a Westerner, influenced by Eastern traditions. Her forms evolve and devolve. Active, painterly strokes are pivotal to her intention of building forms from the nebulous to the concrete with purpose-filled marks of energy. The insistence of Cohn's work is to travel the circle of life taking the chance of self-knowledge, memory, distraction, allusion, narrative and hope. Her paintings explore the continuing flux of being and becoming, evolving and dissolving, progressions toward resolutions which do not always resolve. This is the bravery of her art and her life-path.

Jean Hirsch  
Visual artist/poet  
Evanston, IL  
January 2009

#### ARTIST STATEMENT:

Still vivid...seeing a Goya painting, at an early age in a book, it showed me a different world and that a picture could record and also extend a moment in time -- a memory, a thought, a lived event -- real or imagined. Now, I listen to paint drips, automatic marks, and colored forms, to make visible...narratives of the self, others, and relationships (*relating ships*). Subconscious underpinnings emerge.

Ultimately, I am captivated by the gesture of the moment.

Linda Cohn, February 2009