



**Bill  
Hodges  
Gallery**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**ROLAND COHEN:  
Post-Impressionist  
Sculptures**

December 8<sup>th</sup> – December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2006

**CIC**  
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Industriel  
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**What do painters like Kandinsky and Jasper Jones, and sculptors like Émile Bourdelle and Ossip Zadkine all have in common?** It's a question that continues to fascinate French sculptor **Roland Cohen** to this day. Perhaps those artists share "the ability to imagine the soul, which is hidden inside human beings and the concrete world," says Mr. Cohen. For more than a decade, he has also been channeling that same extraordinary ability, shaping bronze and clay into figurative and otherworldly sculptures that have been exhibited throughout France. It's with great pleasure then that the **Bill Hodges Gallery** proudly welcomes Mr. Cohen in his U.S. debut, ***Roland Cohen: Post-Impressionist Sculptures*** this coming December 8<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

Viewers can indulge in the strangeness and exquisiteness of Mr. Cohen's sculptures, which can draw people into a realm where the physical, static, bronze and terracotta materials reveal a fluid, organic "inner life" within each piece. For instance, *Gossip*, a mixed media piece, depicts the bust of a mischievous woman with her head tilted upwards. From her gaping mouth sprout slender, red tendrils that aggressively reach out into the air. These serpentine "tongues", the sculptor's rendition of an abstract idea made manifest, are at once both beautiful and menacing.

Other times, Mr. Cohen's sculptures draw out interesting social commentaries about human relationships. *Engagement Man and Woman* is composed of two vaguely figurative bronze sculptures attached together by a short chain. Viewers who encounter this peculiar duo may ask several questions: Is the woman the tall one with the hourglass shape curves, and the man its shorter, stocky partner, or vice versa? Which is it? Is the chain between them symbolic of their union or of their bondage?

In another sculpture, *The Kiss Man and Woman* (pictured right), a block of bronze has swirling shapes on its sides that resemble interlocking human faces. In fact, the work is detachable, and can be displayed as either two separate yet complementary pieces, or as one combined sculpture. Completing *The Kiss* are two giant "feelers" that extend from the top, enhancing the sensuality of this piece with a primal, insectile sensitivity.

Currently, Mr. Cohen is working in the late Matisse's atelier in Montparnasse, Paris, creating a set of life-size sculptures of tramps and drunkards to be installed in a nearby city park as a means of uplifting the image of the neighborhood. The Bill Hodges Gallery, with the generous support of Crédit Industriel et Commercial, is pleased to present a sculptor of uncommon vision and astonishing creativity. Please join us at the opening reception on December 7<sup>th</sup>, Thursday, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

*Roland Cohen: Post-Impressionist Sculptures* will be on view beginning December 7<sup>th</sup> through December 28<sup>th</sup>. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10:00am to 6:00pm, and Saturday, 12:30 noon to 5:30pm. The Bill Hodges Gallery is located at 24 West 57<sup>th</sup> Street (between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue), New York, NY 10019. The nearest subway stops are 57<sup>th</sup> St./7<sup>th</sup> Ave. (N, R, Q, W trains) and 57<sup>th</sup> St. (F train). For more information, please visit [www.billhodgesgallery.com](http://www.billhodgesgallery.com) or contact the Gallery Director, Bill Hodges, at 212.333.2640.



*The Kiss* (bronze 2006, two pieces Woman: 74x26x28 cm  
22x22x21 cm)