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LEONARD COHEN ARTWORKS

SON OF CANADIAN ICON BRINGS HIS FATHER'S ARTWORK TO TOWN FOR RARE EXHIBITION AND SALE OF LEONARD COHEN ARTWORK

VANCOUVER – Adam Cohen, the son of legendary Canadian singer, writer and artist **Leonard Cohen** will be in Vancouver December 3rd for an exclusive showing of his father's work – the first time Cohen's artwork has ever been shown on the West Coast.

A renowned musician in his own right, Adam Cohen will launch the exhibition and sale of the 37 pieces that make up "Leonard Cohen: Artworks," which runs until Dec. 31.

The Los Angeles-based singer-songwriter says the collection of his father's Jean Cocteau-like sketches, featuring multiple self-portraits, as well as images of Leonard Cohen's homes in Montreal and on the Greek island of Hydra, *"are all little fragments of Cohen family history."* Cohen spent countless hours drawing, both for himself and with his children – Adam and his sister, Lorca – purely as creative exploration. *"I always just loved trying to find the shape of things," Leonard Cohen* has said. *"I never thought of them as something to exhibit. I always thought of them as kind of notes – a kind of personal journalism."*

"These drawings are not his effort to be remembered in the annals of history as a visual artist," says **Adam Cohen**. *"But that distinct voice of his, which many of us know and love already, is evident here in his graphic work."*

Cohen, who says his father has been *"nothing but a positive influence,"* is currently working on two musical projects that pay homage to his family roots, having recently become a father himself. *"There's something truly course altering about sitting at the Sabbath table with my father on my right and my son to my left,"* he says. *"My sense of duty to my family name and my own son are greater than ever. I'm learning about what it means to be a family man and an artist at the same time, another family trade really."*



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Leonard Cohen's drawings have appeared publicly only twice before – at the opening of the Richard Goodall Gallery in Manchester, England, in the summer of 2007 and in conjunction with the Luminato Festival in Toronto this past spring. Vancouver gallery owner **Linda Lando** was first drawn to Cohen's visual art when she read a copy of his 2006 poetry collection *Book of Longing*. Many of the book's illustrations will appear as limited edition prints, ranging in price from \$2,000-\$6,500 US, as part of the Art Works exhibition. Each individual print is signed, titled, numbered and dated, embossed and hand-stamped with Cohen's personal seal.

"Through these images, one gets a revealing glimpse of the inner life, love, angst and desires of Leonard Cohen," says Lando. "These limited edition prints represent a rare opportunity to support and invest in one of Canada's best known cultural icons."

Adam Cohen and Linda Lando are available for interview. For more information about the pieces appearing in Art Work, visit www.lindalandofineart.com.

LEONARD COHEN EXHIBITION & SALE

December 5th-31st, 2008
LINDA LANDO FINE ART
2001 West 41st Avenue

Call **604.266.6010** for viewing and prices or visit www.lindalandofineart.com

LindaLando Fine Art

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BACKGROUNDER

About Leonard Cohen

Leonard Cohen is a Canadian singer, songwriter, novelist, poet and artist. He grew up in Montreal and studied English literature at McGill University, becoming a part of the city's bohemian literary scene along with good friends Irving Layton and Mort Rosengarten. His poetry books include *Let Us Compare Mythologies*, *Flowers for Hitler* and the enormously popular *The Spice Box of Earth*. Cohen is also the author of two novels, *The Favourite Game* and *Beautiful Losers*. But he is most widely known for his music – a career he pursued only at the age of 30, after several years writing poetry and novels, seven of them on the Greek island of Hydra.



After Cohen relocated to the United States, folk singer Judy Collins recorded two of his songs on a 1966 album. In 1967, Cohen was introduced to a Columbia Records executive who helped Cohen produce his first album, *Songs of Leonard Cohen*, featuring classics such as “Suzanne” and “So Long, Marianne.” Cohen has recorded a total of 17 albums, and was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in March 2008. He lives in Los Angeles and is currently on a world tour.

About the Art

Leonard Cohen has drawn all of his life, decorating his personal notebooks and often doing self-portraits and then annotating them with a line or two that conveyed the mood of the drawing. He never thought that his drawings would be made public, so they really are a glimpse into his personal life.

Cohen's drawings cover a wide range of media – from doodles on napkins to watercolours, oil pastels, charcoal drawings and digitally created images drawn onto a Wacom tablet. These drawings are then put onto a computer and printed out by a carefully calibrated state of the art printing press at world renowned Nash studios in California.

They are produced with permanent pigmented ink on 300-pound arches watercolour paper and finished with a hand-deckled edge. Cohen then inspects the prints to make sure they are staying true to the originals and personally titles, signs and seals each print before it is sent out.



Leonard's Chop and Seal

This image is the old Chinese writing of Leonard's monk's name, Jikan. It means “ordinary silence.” Leonard was a monk at a Zen Buddhist monastery on Mount Baldy, near L.A. His mentor there was Roshi. He stayed there for five years, from 1994-1999.



This image is the Star of David made up of 2 interlocking hearts and has been used in Jewish design for thousands of years. Cohen first used it for the cover of his 1984 book of poetry, *Book of Mercy*. He now uses it to represent his personal seal as well as the logo for the “Order of the Unified Heart”. This Order was dreamed up by Cohen and does not actually exist – rather, it is a dream of an order that has no organization, no hierarchy and whose intent is to make things better on a very personal level.