

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Will Cotton

*Will Cotton*

January 14 – February 26, 2011

Michael Kohn Gallery is pleased to present a solo exhibition of new work by Will Cotton. Cotton's work has often taken luscious landscapes composed of sweets, rich chocolate, and ambrosial clouds as its subject matter. In his new show, Cotton incorporates the figure into his signature landscapes, often dressing them in items of clothing that have been designed specifically for the fictional space that they inhabit. Skirts made of cotton candy with a rock candy bodices, dresses made of cupcake papers, cake hats, and candy tiaras will be present in this new body of work, thus merging together fashion, landscapes reminiscent of Ingres, and Will Cotton's signature style of luxurious decadence.



In the past, Cotton has wanted the figures in his paintings to represent a generalized archetype, so as to place greater emphasis on his rich landscapes. In his latest show, he has begun to paint more specific characters, with greater depth of emotion and interior narrative, rather than relying entirely on place and landscape as subject matter.

This past year, Cotton served as the Art Director for Katy Perry's 2010 music video, "California Gurls," and also completed his work, *Cotton Candy Katy*, which features the young singer reclining amid cotton candy clouds. This painting was featured as a cover art on the "California Gurls" album, *Teenage Dream*. Some of the paintings included in this new collection are never-before-seen images of Katy Perry. This serves as an entirely new experience in that Katy is a widely recognized pop icon, allowing her own character and personality to

infuse with the imagery.

Cotton currently lives and works in New York City. He has had exhibitions throughout the United States and Europe including the San Francisco Museum of Art; the Seattle Art Museum; the Kunsthalle Bielefeld, Germany; the Hudson River Museum; the Triennale di Milano, Italy; the Musee Marmottan Monet, Paris and the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Havana.

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