



"Eazy, Breezy," 2011, oil on linen, 26 x 36 inches

Max Jansons

Freewheelin'

September 23rd through
October 22nd, 2011

GRAHAM
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Graham Gallery is pleased to present an exhibition of new work by painter Max Jansons. The exhibition, his second at Graham, titled *Freewheelin'* runs from September 23 through October 22, 2011. An opening reception for the artist will be held Thursday, September 22 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Jansons' intimately scaled, carefully constructed canvases draw on, as he describes, "the beach, the ocean, unapologetic nostalgia, pottery and plants, hippies, surfers and kooks, sunny days, boobs, slow livin'...FREEWHEELIN'. My desire to live in a world made up of these things led me to make this new group of paintings. I made them because they are things I want to see, to experience, and to surround myself with. They are my reflections and interpretations of life in California." While Jansons' subjects openly and lovingly reference popular culture, his refined method making, small linen canvases, tacked with nails cut in small batches in England and primed in lead, draw from historical traditions. Jansons hand mixes, in small batches pigments derived from extinct earth sources. His choice of materials is deliberate as is his direct painting method. Jansons believes paintings "have a certain energy that can't be duplicated. The brushstrokes build the image like bricks in a building, they are dependent on one another, their balance crucial to how the painting unfolds. Though they can appear as if they were done in minutes, I work on one small section for hours, until the brush work feels right." Jansons reinvigorates his traditional methods by engaging his "hand-made" process in a rose colored look back on contemporary Californian culture.

Born in New York City in 1974 Jansons received his BFA from the University of California at Los Angeles in 1996 and his MFA from Columbia University in 1998. Jansons currently lives and works in Santa Monica, California. Jansons has had solo exhibitions of his work at Wooster Arts Space in New York, Christopher Grimes Gallery in Los Angeles and Graham Gallery in New York. His work has been included in group shows *Far Out* at View Room Exhibition in New York, curated by Joseph Roeder and *Some Dumb Fun*, curated by David Pagel for the University of Nevada in Las Vegas.

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