

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

I NO. 68

SATURDAY/SUNDAY, MARCH 22 - 23, 2008

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WINNING INVESTMENT

Exhibitions

Will Cotton

The Acclaimed Artist Talks About His New Show in a Caribbean Hotel

TO LURE AN ART-LOVING CLIENTELE, luxury hotels have done everything from installing Picassos in their lobbies to inviting artists like Julian Schnabel to help design their décor. Last month, the Eden Rock hotel in St. Barts invited New York artist Will Cotton to do a three-week residency in one of its beachside bungalows. Mr. Cotton is known for painting Willy Wonka landscapes that portray chocolate waterfalls, gingerbread houses, and macaroon forests as tempting utopias. His new works on paper, hanging in the hotel gallery until March 31, have a few island twists. We spoke to Mr. Cotton about a few pieces in the show. —Kelly Crow

'Cloud (Study)' \$15,000

Mr. Cotton typically populates his canvas skies with cotton-candy clouds, but he says the billows he saw during his stay looked like whipped cream.

So he set up a sheet of glass in his room and dotted it with dollops. "I want to work more with whipped-cream clouds now," he says.



◀ 'Ribbon Candy (Hannah)' \$15,000

Before his trip, Mr. Cotton asked the pastry chef at the New York restaurant Daniel to craft a wig made from ribbon candy, but the confection proved too fragile to carry on a plane. So he took along photos of the wig and a model's headshots instead.

'Hard Candy Palm' \$10,000

"I'd never done a palm tree before, but Christian iconography loves the palm as a sign of paradise, which is perfect for me since a lot of my work deals with utopia," he says. He did at least two oil-on-paper sketches of palms but sweetened them up with candy-cane trunks and dangling treats.