

# BETTY CUNINGHAM GALLERY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Greg Drasler



**Greg Drasler**  
*OPEN MIKE*, 2009  
Oil on canvas  
52 x 58 inches

Dates: September 10 – October 10, 2009  
Opening reception: Thursday, September 10, 6 – 8pm

New York, NY—August 6, 2009—Betty Cunningham Gallery is pleased to announce an exhibition of new work by Greg Drasler, on view from September 10 through October 10, 2009. It will be the artist's second exhibition at the gallery, located at 541 W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street, between 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Avenues. The artist will be present for an opening reception on September 10<sup>th</sup>, from 6 – 8 PM.

Included in the exhibition will be approximately ten large canvases, including three interiors and seven hat paintings. Developing out of previous work in this series, the hat paintings present an overview of a group of hatted men crowded onto the canvas creating a tightly knit composition. Although representational, the hats are the notes which unite the canvas into a subtly composed symphony. Drasler continues to develop the hats as a theme because each time he paints an object, "the act of painting repacks these things with new meanings". The bowler, fedora, newsboy, and boater hats represented in these paintings are reminiscent of the thirties and forties, a period that has always held the artist's fascination.

Like the hat paintings there too is nostalgia for a time gone by in Drasler's interiors. Although the room interiors do not feature human figures, these dreamlike paintings are not devoid of a human presence, and eerily include objects appearing to have only recently been deserted such as a small toy car at the foot of the chair in *Mixed Marriage*. This emptiness creates a longing to enter the artist's dream world, a surrealist nostalgia for these times and places. In *Country Place* and its upside-down opposite *Without Paddle*, Drasler lets us enter his Japanese beach house in the first canvas and then flips the painting, removes the floor and we enter his boat house.

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**Greg Drasler**  
*MIXED MARRIAGE*, 2009  
Oil on linen  
70 x 60 inches

A native of Waukegan, IL, Greg Drasler received his BFA and MFA from the University of Illinois at Champaign/Urbana. He began exhibiting upon moving to New York in the mid-1980s. Drasler's work can be seen in the collections of Dow Jones, Inc.; Krannert Art Museum, Champaign, IL; University of Illinois, Champaign/Urbana, IL; New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York, NY; and Thurston Twigg-Smith, Honolulu, HI.

Drasler has been the recipient of numerous awards and grants, including a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship in 1991 and a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in 1993. Currently he is an Assistant Professor at Pratt Institute and has also taught at Princeton University.

*The exhibition will remain on view through Saturday, October 10, 2009. For further information and/or images, please contact the gallery at 212.242.2772 or [info@bettycunninghamgallery.com](mailto:info@bettycunninghamgallery.com)*

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**Next exhibition: Abby Leigh "The Sleeper's Eye", October 15 – November 14, 2009**