

Artist Statement

Barbara Noah

I am intrigued by the long shot, the notion that human aspirations that seem impossible could actually come to pass, in spite of their improbability. Recent work has been particularly influenced by the longing and desire for transcendence in contemporary life, as well as the notion recurring through the ages that achievement and/or salvation might be found in the sky.

In my recent series, "Likely Stories," I allude to these ideas in pigment prints constructed from multiple images into alternative realities. In these pieces, solitary airborne objects function as mirrored, one-on-one stand-ins or surrogates for the viewer. These iconic symbols are everyday objects, like balloons, toys and hats - diminutive objects taming the infinite. Some are inflated, others in the act of deflating - metaphors for breathing. Whether free-floating or propelled by a toss, they are in full throttle can-do mode, ascending to improbable, transcendent heights and wryly reflective of the humor and pathos of the desire for human achievement.