



Rigged Reality

In her multi-dimensional cold-wax and mixed media artworks, Prideaux asks us to consider how the choices we make have an impact on an unpredictable environment. She is especially interested in our power to change reality (or at least our perception of it) through subtle shifts in our mindset and the ways in which that can be harnessed for good.

She cites as an example; *“grey days used to make me feel low. Now, I've decided I love grey days and look forward to seeing what shades of grey are in the sky...I give myself a license to be cozier and more contemplative on these days”*

The colors and forms in her paintings are inspired by sailing trips on the North Carolina coast, furthering the metaphor of unpredictability through the elements as well as the philosophical weathering of life's storms.

Prideaux's works aren't all based on times of challenge and introspection. As is evident in the optimistic color palette she employs, she also asks us to focus on brighter days; *“days that are so beautiful you feel in your core that there is a divine presence”*

Many of the paintings have abstracted channel markers with bird's nest on top of them. The markers are there because Prideaux likes to think they guide the viewer through the painting while referencing the emotional journeys we navigate throughout the course of our lives.

Continuing this theme of overcoming adversity and rising above life's challenges, Prideaux has emphasized the verticality of the work, drawing our eyes in an upward trajectory towards the sky or the unknown. To her mind, this brings forth a positive energy and yearning to explore that she believes is present in all of us if we know where to look.

Finally, Prideaux has recently started to experiment by adding abstracted kite forms to the work in this series. Given she is offering us an opportunity to look inward, forward and back to the challenges and opportunities that have shaped us, it seems a fitting metaphor for the fleetingness and spontaneity of life. After all, what says enjoy the moment more than flying a kite?