

falling / failing, 2001-2005

Using the cowboy as my central character and the western landscape as my stage I synthesize personal narratives with collected myths. My new fictions break down the field of assumptions that deal with the construction of gender identity and the failures that occur between male and female roles.

In the Falling/Failing series, I utilize the image of the cowboy who cannot stay on his horse in order to undermine the antiquated myth of the American male. These paintings expose the feelings of inadequacy men deal with living in a post-feminist era. The figure of the cowboy, enveloped in a suffocating landscape of flowers, emanates a profound loneliness, portraying how relations between men and women remain helplessly intertwined yet insoluble.

I think a critical perspective on the notion of the cowboy as hero is very timely and relevant, given the resurrection of this old archetype in the constructed image of George W. Bush and his push for war after 9/11. The current agenda to dominate and eliminate reflects the history of the cowboy on a global scale.