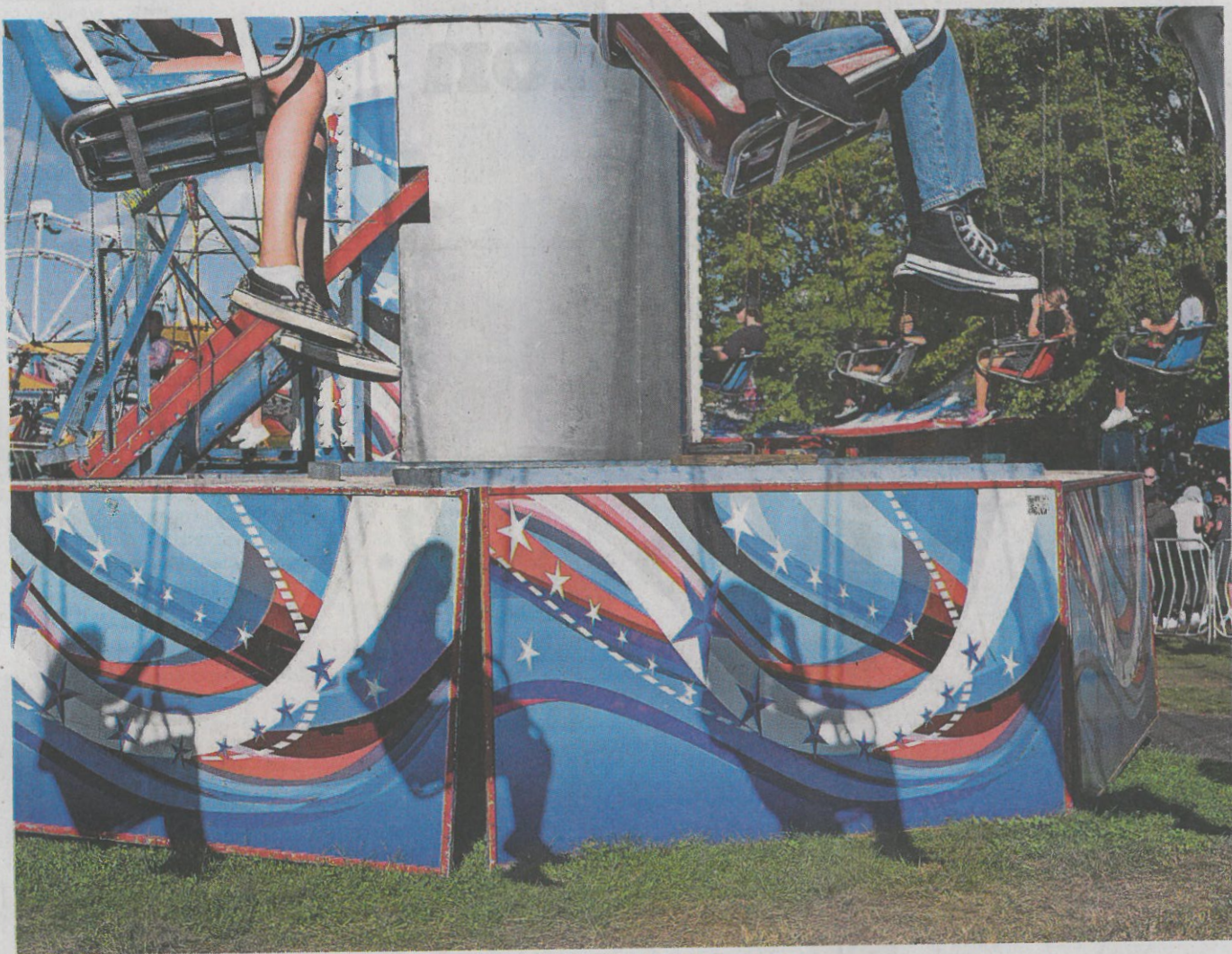


## Columns & Commentary

**In Development:** New works at the intersection of art, news and life.





The summer after the Covid pandemic shut down county fairs, Maureen Drennan traveled to upstate New York to photograph their jubilant return. She has since begun a yearslong photo series documenting the diverse groups fairs attract: farmers showing off their livestock, aspiring Ferris wheel riders, cheesemakers competing for ribbons, children dragging their parents to watch pigs race, Gen X-ers dragging their kids to tribute bands. The nation's first county fair was held in 1811, and today more than 25 million people attend state and county fairs every year. In her photo series, Ms. Drennan says, she avoids typical carnival imagery. "I'm trying to show a little bit of the gaudy, the excitement, the kind of illusion of it," she says. "It just pops up out of nowhere — it gets put up by all these workers — and then it goes away in a week."