

**brou·ha·ha** /'brōohä,hä/

Noun: A noisy and overexcited critical response, display of interest, or trail of publicity.

In cartooning, a 'brouhaha' is the name given to the convention of drawing heightened commotion by obscuring the conflict through a combat cloud, or dust-up, that seems to float free from gravity and hover just above the surface of the earth, expanding it's endless energies in every direction.

Routinely drawn as a spinning cloud with fists and feet sticking out in every which direction, it is a simple way of obscuring the depictions of troubling violence when such things are considered inappropriate for the intended audience or because the intensity of the kerfuffle remains outside of visual possibility and must rather be implied and left to the imagination of the viewer.

Of course, as an artist it would be wonderful to be able to cause a similar uproar with one's work, but I am more inspired by the simple idea of essential and intense conflicts (some silly, some serious) being able to be so tidily encapsulated in a single ball of aesthetic momentum.

My hope is that by pulling together the seemingly random and experimental glumps of visual extravagance that make up this collection, my new pieces will similarly empower the viewer to imagine the connections, the conflicts and the boundless excitement of all that's left unseen.

Karl Frey, 2012

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karl Frey', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.