

**Project Room:  
Katherine Bradford**

Opening  
Thursday 8 June  
6.30 pm

On view  
from 8 June  
to 28 July 2017

June  
Tuesday - Saturday  
3 - 7 pm

July  
Monday - Friday  
3 - 7 pm

We are pleased to announce the first exhibition in Italy by American painter Katherine Bradford.

Bradford's recent paintings are depictions of water and swimmers, both playful and profound. Painting and swimming share immersion and a certain loss of control that is simultaneously wild and structured. The body in nature; we see ourselves situated in relationship to the deep other.

Bradford's swimmers are not lit from some external light source but seem to generate their own brightness. The world seems milky and dreamlike. This comes from the act of painting, the painter breathing light and life into her canvasses. Bradford spends months and sometimes years building up the surfaces of her paintings, slowly changing the paintings through repeated application of thinned out acrylic paint or scuffed on thicker stuff: this gradual activity creates animation and a floating quality.

Bradford often refers to the humor in her paintings. In the past the subject matter pointed more obviously in this direction: UFOs with tractor beams, Superman, Skinny boxers with raised gloves and lonesome ocean liners were used to create a self-depreciating painterly pop encyclopedia. Her recent work holds pathos and humor in equal measure.

One reason her paintings have become more and more relatable is that even as she depicts specific motifs, she relentlessly touches on the biggest themes and forces us to confront them – fear, wonder, vulnerability, hubris, and joy. In her newest work, she even more deliberately sets her scenes in larger, planetary landscape-stages. The characters are moving along the surface of the earth, and between underworlds and outer space. The paintings suggest rapture in all senses of the word – enchantment and bliss, as well as imminent demise.

Katherine Bradford was born in 1942 in New York and lives and works in Brooklyn, New York and Brunswick, Maine. She has shown her work at P.S.1, The Brooklyn Museum, and many galleries in New York and abroad. In 2011 Bradford was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship and in 2012 a Joan Mitchell Grant. She has taught as a resident faculty at Skowhegan in 2009 and for many years was on the MFA faculty of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts in Philadelphia. Her work is in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Brooklyn Museum, and the Portland Museum of Art.