

Citation for Katherine Bradford, May 2022
Presented by Carrie A. Scanga, Professor of Art

Katherine Bradford is best known for her paintings of swimmers, superheroes, and ships that critics describe as simultaneously representational and abstract, luminous, and richly metaphorical. Beyond her groundbreaking work in the studio, Ms. Bradford is known in the art world for her generous mentoring and arts community leadership.

Kathy Bradford was born in New York City and attended Bryn Mawr College and then SUNY Purchase for her master of fine arts. Ms. Bradford began painting when she was living in Maine in the 1970s. She moved back to New York City in the '80s and has continued to return each summer to her home on the coast of Maine. She has exhibited work at the Bowdoin College Museum of Art and her work is scheduled for an upcoming traveling survey exhibition at the Portland Museum of Art. Farther afield, her work is in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Brooklyn Museum, the Dallas Museum of Art, and the Menil Collection in Houston, Texas. Recent exhibitions include the New Orleans Biennial, Prospect 4, and a solo exhibition at Tomio Koyama in Tokyo, Japan.

Ms. Bradford is beloved by many as a generous teacher and mentor. She has served on the faculty of the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture and as a senior critic at the Yale School of Art. She has been an inspiring voice in critiques and studio visits with Bowdoin's Visual Arts majors over the years. She has contributed to the Bowdoin art department as a speaker and guest critic, and has hosted our students in her New York and Brunswick studios. She is widely admired by fellow artists as a supportive colleague who unwaveringly shows up for community, by attending gallery openings, sharing critiques, and offering a boost to young artists trying to get a foothold in a competitive field.

The Bowdoin College Museum of Art recently added a Bradford painting, *Fear of Dark*, to its permanent collection. The painting was created in Brunswick in the summer of 2020 and was a gift to the Museum from David and Barbara Roux, in honor of Anne and Frank Goodyear.

President Rose, on behalf of the College, I am honored to present Katherine Bradford for the degree of doctor of fine arts, *honoris causa*.