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"ART: Katherine Bradford" Johanna Fateman, The New Yorker. September 7 2020. <https://www.newyorker.com/goings-on-about-town/art/katherine-bradford-online>

ART

Katherine Bradford

This resourceful painter's online exhibition, on the Canada gallery's Web site, is a studio visit of sorts: a glimpse into Bradford's scaled-down workspace and her vibrant, if pensive, output during a mandatory fourteen-day quarantine in her Maine home. A photograph from early April, with snow visible through a big kitchen window, documents a whirlwind of activity: a table covered in velvety paintings on paper. Echoing the themes of her much larger canvases, these small works present soft-focus figures—she favors swimmers—in colorful dream worlds. A nod to the pandemic appears in the form of a Red Cross nurse, standing alone in the night. But it's "Lap Sitters," an orange, yellow, and blue composition, that is the keystone of Bradford's lockdown series. A strange hybrid—equal parts chair and human being—appears in profile, embracing a seated woman, in whose lap sits a spectral figure. In an accompanying video, Bradford explains that the painting is a meditation on the symbolic space of a mother's lap—exactly the kind of place, she explains, "where you want to be during a pandemic."

— Johanna Fateman



Katherine Bradford *Lap Sitters*, 2020, Gouache, collage on paper, 15 x 11 inches