

## Crosscut.

Davis, Brangien. "ArtSEA: Northwest Art Blooms Abstract for the Spring Equinox." *Crosscut*, 16 Mar. 2023, [crosscut.com/culture/2023/03/artsea-northwest-art-blooms-abstract-spring-equinox](http://crosscut.com/culture/2023/03/artsea-northwest-art-blooms-abstract-spring-equinox).

### ArtSEA: Northwest art blooms abstract for the spring equinox



Katherine Bradford's 1999 painting "Woman in Water" is on view this month at the Frye Art Museum. (Katherine Bradford)

Also awash in color is the fantastic new show *Flying Woman: The Paintings of Katherine Bradford* at Frye Art Museum (through May 14).

Born in 1942, Bradford splits her time between studios in New York and Maine and makes large-scale paintings that reach out and grab you by the eyeballs. When I walked through the show at the Frye recently, part of the fun was hearing visitors enter each room and express amazement at the vivid color fields — indigo, sky blue, hot pink and teal.

Bradford's subject matter is simple: often women, some swimming, one attempting to fly. Small gatherings of people touch awkwardly with stiff arms. Facial features are unnecessary. Limbs tend to stretch into long stripes.

"I was a total long shot, as far as developing as an artist of any note at all," Bradford says in one of three charming documentary videos that accompany the paintings. She explains that her 1999 painting "Woman Flying" embodies her artistic beginnings: an outline of a faceless woman, nude except for a red cape, awkwardly lifting upward. "More in a state of longing than accomplishment," Bradford says in the video. "That was me ... As an artist I felt like I was just getting off the ground."

Now she's a prolific painter — and connoisseur of paintbrushes, which she prefers from the hardware store — with a genius understanding of color.