Flying Woman: The Paintings of Katherine Bradford *Activity Guide*
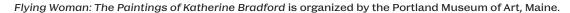
Use this activity sheet with children while in the galleries or at home.

Flying Woman: The Paintings of Katherine Bradford is organized by the Portland Museum of Art, Maine.

REFLECT & RESPOND:

Look closely at this artwork. What's going on in this picture? What do you see that makes you say that?

Artist Katherine Bradford says she feels at home in the water—she was a competitive swimmer in high school and college. Where do you feel most at home?

She says painting can be like swimming, the more you practice, the more you improve. What's something that you're good at? Can you remember what it was like the first time you tried this? How did you get better?

WRITE A POEM:

Think about a place where you feel at home and write a poem about it, finishing the sentences below.

When I am _____ (where you feel at home)

I see...

I see...

I see...

I feel...

I feel...

I feel...

Katherine Bradford. *Woman in Water*, 1999. Oil on canvas. 68 x 80 in. Collection of the artist. © Katherine Bradford

COMPARE & CONTRAST:

Look closely at both artworks. What's going in these pictures?

What is the same about these? What parts are different?

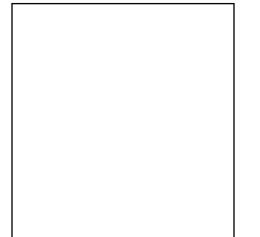Do you think that it's the same person in both paintings? Why or why not?

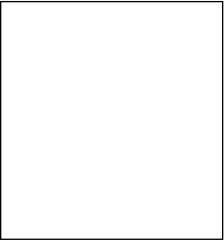How do you think each figure is feeling? What do you see that makes you say that?

Can you think of a time when you've felt the same way as one of these figures? What happened that made you feel that way?
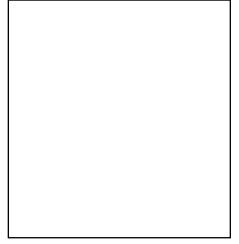
STRIKE A POSE:

Both artworks are painted by artist Katherine Bradford. She likes to put figures in her pictures that show emotions through body language.

Brainstorm some feelings or emotions and write a different feeling below each box. Have someone strike a pose that expresses that feeling. Look closely and draw them the way their body is posed.

Feeling:

Feeling:

Feeling:

Images (left to right): Katherine Bradford. *Super Flyer,* 2013. Oil on canvas. 48 x 36 in. Erica J. Hickey. © Katherine Bradford. Image courtesy Wes Magner; Katherine Bradford. *Superman Responds, Night,* 2013. Oil on canvas. 48 x 36 in. Private collection. © Katherine Bradford. Image courtesy Julia Featheringill Photography