

ARTFORUM



KATHERINE BRADFORD

Janet Nowinski (Thomas Erben Gallery, New York)

At first I was outraged that Janet Nowinski's paintings were so small and that many were of reclining nudes, a subject I've seen too many times. Then I got intrigued because she makes the rest of us look like we're trying too hard. In *Pink Bathing Suit #8*, 2020, the suit is so awkwardly attached to its owner that it exposes both swimmer and artist as vulnerable and human. It also signals Nowinski's complete "liberation from any dependence on a living model" (per the press release). What gateways have suddenly swung open to allow such tenderness and grace to thrive in our madcap New York galleries? I left this show with a strong desire to recalibrate my standards.