

JOHNSON LOWE GALLERY

Press Release:

Gommaar Gilliams, *Sky Atlas*

On view April 10, 2026 – June 27, 2026

Opening Reception: Friday, April 10th from 6:00 to 8:00 pm

Atlanta, Georgia – Johnson Lowe Gallery is pleased to present *Sky Atlas*, an exhibition of new paintings by Belgian artist Gommaar Gilliams, on view April 10 - June 27. In this body of work, Gilliams builds paintings the way archetypes are formed, through universal, inherited patterns of the human psyche that reside in the collective unconscious and are activated and shaped by personal and societal experience. His practice draws from systems of looking that long predate explanation: fables, myths, parables, allegories, poetry, and astrological diagrams, where meaning accumulates through return rather than resolution.

Stitching soaked in paint, combined with thick layers of fleshy pigment, corrections, and other tactile interventions, evokes the human condition embedded in the types of stories Gilliams references through both imagery and titles. Paint is laid down in layers that generate a palimpsests. Time remains visible, sedimented across the surface. Each work behaves like an object made to last, worked into the condition of something handled, repaired, and kept.

One of the leading motifs is the greyhound, a long-bodied hound suspended in deep blue, pale and alert, recalling medieval hunting imagery and its symbolic lineage. These elegant figures move through Gothic narrative cycles and courtly manuscripts, where the animal signifies loyalty, guardianship, and the discipline of desire. Elsewhere, avian forms cross pale grounds with the directness of early illustration, while a diver's angled body enters the picture, echoing fresco traditions that contend with light and darkness. Gilliams selects figures with long memories—hound, bird, diver, swan, archer, moon, star, boat—and presses them through the painted surface, allowing them to interact with the full range of pictorial and material elements at play.

Throughout *Sky Atlas*, painting understands storytelling as a pre-linguistic act, closer to lullaby than plot. The sweetness and structural clarity associated with early Italian painting—particularly in the work of Piero della Francesca and Giotto—can be felt in the way certain forms settle into place, even as that order is persistently unsettled by abrasion, color, and revision. The works acknowledge that the desire for coherence—for Arcadia, or “a place of rest”—is inseparable from the awareness that such a place is always provisional, continually made, and already slipping away.

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About Gommaar Gilliams

Gommaar Gilliams (b. 1982, Lier, Belgium) is a Belgian painter born in 1982. He graduated in visual arts from LUCA School of Arts in Brussels and holds a Master's degree in Painting from PXL MAD Faculty in Hasselt. Gilliams has exhibited widely across Europe as well as in solo exhibitions at De Buck Gallery in New York and the La Brea Residency in Los Angeles.

Gilliams has exhibited widely across Europe as well as in solo exhibitions at De Buck Gallery in New York and The Cabin LA residency in Los Angeles. His work has also won numerous honorable mentions and national awards in Belgium. He lives and works in Hasselt, Belgium.

About Johnson Lowe Gallery

Johnson Lowe Gallery champions emerging, mid-career, and established artists from our region and beyond. Our program reveres the transformative power of artistic expression, honoring the profound nature of visual language and its ability to drive personal and societal paradigm shifts.

Founded in 1989 by Bill Lowe, the gallery's extensive exhibition history includes renowned artists such as Thornton Dial, Michael David, Ida Applebroog, Markus Lupertz and Leiko Ikemura. In 2023, the gallery was re-established as Johnson Lowe Gallery under the Direction of Donovan Johnson with *The Alchemists*, a historic exhibition co-curated by Seph Rodney. This exhibition featured works by Sanford Biggers, Mark Bradford, Ebony G. Patterson, Thornton Dial, William Downs, Shanequa Gay, Trenton Doyle Hancock, and many others.

Notes to Editors

Artist: Gommaar Gilliams

Title: *Sky Atlas*

Dates: April 10, 2026 – June 27, 2026

Address:

764 Miami Cir NE #210, Atlanta, GA 30324

Hours:

Tuesday – Friday | 10:00 am – 5:30 pm

Saturday | 11:00 am – 5:30 pm

Sunday, Monday, and Evenings by appointment

[Instagram](#)

[Facebook](#)

For all media inquiries, please contact info@johnsonlowe.com

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