

# JOHNSON LOWE GALLERY

## Press Release:

Kathryn Kampovsky, *The Fade*

On view July 24, 2026 – September 12, 2026

**Opening Reception:** Friday, July 24<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 9:00 pm

Atlanta, Georgia – Johnson Lowe Gallery is pleased to present *The Fade*, an exhibition of new paintings by Atlanta artist Kathryn Kampovsky, on view July 24 – September 12. Day by day, Kathryn Kampovsky traces interim moments before and after sleep. Exhaustion, rest, and surrender dissolve past and present alike as she plunges her subjects into a strangely precarious state of goodnight-kiss bliss.

Paintings often begin through forceful and unrestricted movements. By dragging improvised tools—strips of styrofoam, taped wall edges, and sponge gloves—across wet canvases, Kampovsky's actions are propelled by her own exhalation. Built through accumulating layers of acrylic on canvas, broad swathes of pigment remain exposed beneath more recent refinements as earlier marks resurface through abrasive revision. The exertion required to produce the work appears embodied within figures that gradually surface, only to dissolve again as quickly as breath abandons the body. Pillows buckle beneath invisible pressures as reclining figures sink into mattresses and folds of fabric, held somewhere between rest and mortality. Flesh gathers and creases against itself through oxygenated reds, coagulated pinks, and bruised purples that waver in transparencies over figures drifting in and out of reverie.

The bedroom functions less as a domestic setting than a site where the body enters its nightly rehearsal with death. Drawing from film stills portraying actresses in moments of performative unconsciousness, Kampovsky's paintings, somewhat subconsciously contend with the conventions of staging of 'women in bed' within visual culture, where female bodies are rarely permitted to exist free from projection. In these works, playing dead begins to resemble one of the only conceivable escapes from reality itself, even if only temporarily. Rest, here, becomes more than surrender; it offers a brief suspension from the expectations of performance through which contemporary life is so often organized.

In *Timefold*, a pair of hands aggressively plumping a pillow introduces one of the exhibition's few explicit acts of force, momentarily reassuring the figure's aliveness through tugging tension alone. Elsewhere, the body disappears almost entirely, leaving behind only the indentation of its former self, where neither presence nor disappearance is ever fully resolved. Works like *Ghost Grass* evoke Marcel Duchamp's notion of the *inframince*: the barely perceptible vestige that lingers in the aftermath, like the fading warmth held briefly within bedsheets in the morning, or a flattened, discolored patch of grass once a body has risen from it. What is a ghost, after all, if not the presence of absence?

Influenced in part by John Latham's writing on event and duration, where time itself becomes a material condition, alongside the nocturnal melancholy and dissolution of John Keats' *Ode to a Nightingale*, paintings emerge as both record and resistance. The exhibition's title, *The Fade* draws from one of Kampovsky's own theories, in which she believes the act of painting itself follows the same natural cycles that govern other bodily experiences like sleep, hunger, desire, and sex. Having suspended her figures in what feel like downward spirals, she formalizes fading, a condition that ordinarily unfolds gradually, into a singular event across her newest body of work. Throughout the exhibition, bodies appear at varying stages of resolution; some remain firmly present, while others recede into abstraction or disappear altogether. The title points toward the moment just before an ending, carrying with it the same mixture of bleakness and allure that permeates the work. "The place of rest is scary, but desired," Kampovsky writes.

In *The Fade*, figurative and near-empty compositions revel in this contradiction, where bodies hover between emergence and disappearance, and leave behind atmospheric indentations, residual pressures, and lingering occupancies. Existing within this threshold, they resist finality yet never escape it in an attempt to pause the inevitability of time itself, night after restless night.

- Clare Gemima

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## About Kathryn Kampovsky

Kathryn Kampovsky (b. 1997; Atlanta, Georgia) creates layered paintings using oil and acrylic using intentional and varied color palettes. With a focus on figurative painting, she explores her interest in the unconscious desire to prepare for an unpredictable world. Her work aims to understand the ways that daily life, technology, and life events permeate the brain and body in ways that make the flesh inseparable from the outside world. The flesh of her larger-than-life figures, towing the line between the intimacy of a figure painting, and the modernity of its tools. Using maligned perspectives and transparency, the figures appear to be inextricable from their environments and melting into their outer worlds.

## 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: Kathryn Kampovsky

Title: *The Fade*

Dates: July 24, 2026 – September 12, 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](#)

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