

**JOHNSON
LOWE** GALLERY

GOMMAAR GILLIAMS

b.1982; Lier, Belgium

764 Miami Circle NE, Suite 210, Atlanta, GA 30324

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BIOGRAPHY

Gommaar Gilliams is a Belgian painter born in 1982. Graduating in visual arts from LUCA School of Arts in Brussels and having a Master's degree in Painting from PXL College in Hasselt, his large-scale paintings and textural wall hangings fuse American Abstract Expressionism with figurative elements derived from Middle Eastern to European symbolism.

Gilliams' relationship to art history is highly personal. His work is bursting with duality, both in terms of its contents and its techniques. The great power of this lies in his knack for bringing contrasting elements together in a natural way. This is only possible through an understanding of both the light and the dark. With the painterly prowess of Georg Baselitz or Cy Twombly, he creates works whose gentle magic is reminiscent of the paintings of Paul Klee and whose naturalism and imagination call to mind the work of the symbolist.

Although influenced by traditional figurative art and primitive fragments, Gilliams' abstract and gestural style results in work that reintroduces the subject without detracting from the painting itself. Gilliams' work examines the complexities of our emotions and desires, as well as the stories and imagery that connect humans. Oscillating between abstraction and representation, Gilliams weaves colors and textures with both allegorical symbols and human figures. Compositions framed in celestial elements and wreathes of textural flora beckon the viewer into lush spaces filled with fairytale castles and animals in motion. Gilliams' motifs are dreamy, but intentional—the artist references both the history of painting and the history of art through this body of work. He examines the way that humans search for and utilize repeated symbolic imagery throughout time periods and cultures, tapping into our shared desires and our shared wonder for the natural world.

The protagonists of his narratives, women gazing at the moon and figures running through landscapes, are archetypes referencing universal stories. Ultimately, Gilliams hopes his work will evoke an emotional bridge between past, present, and future, inspiring his viewers to unite in a space of “half-remembered” memories.

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 national awards in Belgium including the Ernest Albert Grand Prize (Grote Prijs Ernest Albert) in Mechelen and the Prize of the City of Harelbeke (Prijs van de stad Harelbeke). He lives and works in Hasselt, Belgium.

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SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 *Lightly, Lightly*, De Markthallen, Herk-de-Stad, Belgium
Homecoming, Pron Galerie, Paris, France
- 2024 *Awake, Sleep*, Sofie Van de Velde Gallery, Brussels, Belgium
Retracing Walkways, Debuck Gallery, Saint-Paul-de-Vence, France
Celestial Garden, SMAC Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
The Ballad of my Lover's Boat, Arusha Gallery, London England
- 2023 *Moonstruck*, Italienne Galerie, Paris, France
Eight lullabies, De Buck Gallery, Artsy
- 2022 *Galatea, Thalassa Blues*, Annarumma Gallery, Naples, Italy
Under Cassiopeia, De Buck Gallery, New York, New York
Sunkissed, Moonlit, Sofie Van de Velde Gallery, Antwerp, Brussels
- 2021 *If you were dreaming*, De Buck Gallery, Saint-Paul-de-Vence, France
What do you want?, Sofie Van de Velde Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium
- 2020 *In the Ballpark*, Sofie Van de Velde Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium
Always Been Told, De Buck Gallery, New York, New York
- 2019 *Looking at the world through rose colored glasses*, Sofie Van de Velde Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium
Soft Dialogues, Sofie Van de Velde Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium
- 2018 *Romeo's Tune*, Sofie Van de Velde Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium
Jenny Kissed Me, De Buck Gallery, New York, New York

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *Felt cute, might delete later*, Arusha Gallery, London, England
A curated flashback, The Green Family Art Foundation, Dallas, Texas
- 2021 *Landscape 2.1*, Museum of Contemporary Art De Domijnen, Sittard, Netherlands
Fly me to the moon, Nil Gallery, Paris, France
- 2020 *Landscape 2.0*, Museum of Contemporary Art De Domijnen, Sittard, Netherlands
KETTE UND SCHUSS, Sofie Van de Velde Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium
Threaded Memory, De Buck Gallery, New York, New York
L'heure Bleue, Sofie Van de Velde Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium
- 2017 *In the Picture*, Sofie Van de Velde Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium

RESIDENCIES

- 2023 The Fores Project, London, England
2019 The Cabin LaBrea, Los Angeles, California

PUBLICATIONS

- 2020 Longing for Arcadia, H Art Magazine
2018 Romeo's Tune, Artdaily NY
Word Magazine
2016 Wanatoe, HBVL

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2015 Nr 140, Hart Magazine
2014 Nr 126, Hart Magazine
D!ng Magazine
Mercken Magazine
2013 Voka Magazine

PRIZES

Grote Prijs Ernest Albert, Mechelen, Belgium
De zee, CC Keerbergen, Keerbergen, Belgium
Prijs van de stad Harelbeke, Harelbeke, Belgium
Dexiaprijs, Brussels, Belgium
Grote Prijs voor schilderkunst A.Blomme, Dendermonde, Belgium

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