

**JOHNSON  
LOWE** GALLERY

# **TODD MURPHY**

**American (b.1962, Chicago, Illinois – d.2020)**

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

O. (404) 352 8114 [info@johnsonlowe.com](mailto:info@johnsonlowe.com) [johnsonlowe.com](http://johnsonlowe.com)

## TODD MURPHY

(b. 1962, Chicago, Illinois - d. 2020)

*"Art is not about the right color on the right surface; it's about synthesizing one's experience."*

- Todd Murphy

## BIOGRAPHY

For more than three decades, Todd Murphy synthesized a wide range of mediums including sculpture, painting, film, drawing and photography in mystifying combinations. Existing between anthropology and avant-garde aesthetics, the artist's inventive mixed media works draw from revisionist histories, literary archetypes, and philosophy as a means to explore the complexities of human identity.

With the inquisitiveness of a 19th-century naturalist, Murphy has traveled to the far reaches of the world, collecting, photographing, and fastidiously cataloging everything from melting glaciers, to aviary species, to exotic fruit. His photographic studies of curiosities become sources for complex narratives based on philosophy, mythology, and the supernatural. In his work, Murphy often goes beyond these classical prototypes to include subtexts of bigotry, Southern history, and fantastic literary stories. In the end, his recurring protagonists — horses, birds, dresses, and boats — are poetic vehicles for a humanistic discourse.

Murphy was born in Chicago, later living and working in New York. After studying art at the University of Georgia, he inaugurated his artistic career in Atlanta and continued to show in Atlanta, in addition to New York, San Francisco, Miami, Chicago, Los Angeles, Virginia, Seoul, South Korea and elsewhere. His work is in many prestigious international private and museum collections including The High Museum of Art, The New Orleans Museum, and The Tampa Museum of Art. Beginning in the late eighties, Murphy's enigmatic work was distinguished by an Abstract Expressionist scale and gesture applied to figurative images. These iconic figures came to heroically dominate his canvases and Plexiglas paintings - many colossal in scale and immersive in nature.

His earliest works were birthed from experimentations with 35mm slides - placing one atop or overlapping another - resulting in an illusionary, prismatic technique. This method would later characterize his approach to both his fictional, historical, and biogeographical subjects encompassing Irish novelist and playwright Samuel Beckett, Homer's Ulysses, anthropologist Margaret Mead, and various species of exotic wildlife.

# JOHNSON LOWE GALLERY

## SELECT SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 Voyager, Johnson Lowe Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia  
2022 Wink, Bill Lowe Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia  
2016 Marc Straus, New York, New York  
2010 Jackson Fine Art, Atlanta, Georgia  
2003 Bill Lowe Gallery, Santa Monica, California  
2002 Bill Lowe Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia  
2000 Bill Lowe Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia  
1999 Bill Lowe Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia  
*Artist on the Edge: Sculpture and Drawings*, High Museum of Art, Atlanta, Georgia  
1997 Vaknin & Schwartz, Atlanta, Georgia  
Robert Kidd Gallery, Birmingham, Michigan  
Haines Gallery, San Francisco, California  
1996 Haines Gallery, San Francisco, California Fay Gold Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia  
Robert Kidd Gallery, Birmingham, Michigan  
1995 Light Factory, Charlotte, North Carolina  
Haines Gallery, San Francisco, California Chassie Post, New York, New York  
Fay Gold Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia  
1994 Bill Lowe Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia  
Haines Gallery, San Francisco, California  
Mindy Oh Gallery, Chicago, Illinois  
Chassie Post Gallery, New York, New York  
1993 Bill Lowe Gallery, Santa Monica, California  
Soma Gallery, San Diego, California  
Wichita Art Museum, Wichita, Kansas  
Berstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass, Neenah, Wisconsin  
1992 Bill Lowe Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia  
1991 Bill Lowe Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia  
McKissick Museum of Art, University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina (curated by Dr. Brad Collins)  
1990 Bill Lowe Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia

## SELECT GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2018 The Ideal Feminine/The Feminine Ideal?, curated by Natasha Schlesinger  
Winston Wächter Fine Art, New York, NY  
2007 Jacksonville Museum of Contemporary Art, Jacksonville, Florida  
2003 Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, Virginia  
2000 *Hindsight/Foresight: Art for the New Millennium*, Bayly Art Museum, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia  
1997 Albany Museum of Art, Albany, Georgia Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, Georgia  
Mississippi Museum of Art, Jackson, Mississippi  
Mobile Museum of Art, Mobile, Alabama  
Cummer Museum of Art, Jacksonville, Florida  
Georgia Museum of Art, Athens, Georgia  
1996 Seoul Metropolitan Museum of Art, Seoul, South Korea Seoul Arts Center, Seoul, South Korea  
The New Museum, New York City, New York  
University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut Catherine  
Edelman Gallery, Chicago, Illinois

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

O. (404) 352 8114 info@johnsonlowe.com johnsonlowe.com

# JOHNSON LOWE GALLERY

- Haines Gallery, Brooklyn, New York
- 1995 New Orleans Museum of Art, New Orleans, Louisiana  
Richmond Art Center, Richmond, California  
Kennesaw State College, Kennesaw, Georgia  
Margulies Taplin Gallery, Coral Gables, Florida
- 1993 Louisiana State University Museum of Fine Arts, Baton Rouge, Louisiana  
Oklahoma City Oklahoma City Museum of Art, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
Transitional Realities, The Triton Museum, Santa Clara, California  
The Purloined Image, Flint Institute of Arts, Flint, Michigan  
Columbus Museum of Fine Arts, Columbus, Ohio  
The Triton Museum, Santa Clara, California. "Transitional Realities"
- 1992 Gallery Association Group Show, The Contemporary International Museum of Art, Buford, Georgia, Atlanta
- 1991 Spotlight on Georgia Artists Annual Exhibit, Atlanta, Georgia
- 1990 Tampa Museum of Art, Tampa, Florida  
Fay Gold Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia
- 1989 Janice Hunt Gallery, Chicago, Illinois  
Selected Cities of Italy Tour and Exhibitions Spotlight on Georgia Artists Annual Exhibit

## SELECTED ARTICLES AND REVIEWS

- 1997 Atlanta Magazine, "Escaped Artist," Amy Laughinghouse; March  
Ledger-Enquirer | Columbus Georgia, "Artists' "Body and Soul," Sandra Okamoto; May 30  
Atlanta Homes & Lifestyles, "Where are They Now," Oma Blaise; June  
The Atlanta Journal | The Atlanta Constitution, "Face to Face : Portraits," Jerry Cullum; June 30
- 1996 Cultured Pearl, Seoul Metropolitan Museum of Art & Seoul Arts Center; Catalog Essay.  
Interview Magazine; March. Creative Loafing, October.
- 1995 Dan Cameron, "1995 New Orleans Triennial," essay.  
Poets, Artists & Madmen, "Todd Murphy," Regan Hofmann; July.  
ARTnews, "Todd Murphy," Kenneth Baker; October.  
Manhattan File, Todd Murphy," Walter Robinson; October.  
The Atlanta Journal /The Atlanta Constitution, "Reinventing Symbols can be Touchy Work," Jerry Cullum;  
November 3.  
Creative Loafing, "A World Apart, Todd Murphy's "The New World," Donald Locke.  
"The Collector's Vision," Collection of Peter Spier, Catalog Essay, Todd Murphy, Kennesaw College;  
November.
- 1994 Visions "Paintography," Dean Smith; Winter.  
South Art, "Interview Todd Murphy," Virginia McClure, Nov.-Dec.  
Gay Chicago Magazine, "Sleight of the Artistic Hand," Nov.-Dec.  
The Reader, "Post-Poe Modernism," Mark Swartz; September 22.  
Atlanta Homes and Lifestyles, "Todd's World," Lisa Mowry; September.  
The Atlanta Journal/The Atlanta Constitution, "Connecting the Dots in a Rich Show," Catherine Fox; May 13.  
Creative Loafing, "Emphatic Brushwork," Amy Jinker-Lloyd; May 21. 1993  
Panther, "Different Strokes," Patrice Writh; September 13.  
ARTWEEK, "Different Strokes at Chapman University," Deborah Knaff; October 7.  
Peachtree Papers, "Seeking Illumination," Betty Jo L. Currie; Fall.  
Verdict, The Journal of the Georgia Trial Lawyers Association, Cover Image. May, June, July.  
ARTFORUM, "Todd Murphy at Lowe Gallery, Santa Monica;" April.  
Ray Gun, "Portfolio," Jack Basher; April. Peter Frank, "Pithers and Variations," essay.  
Artist Writer, "Todd Murphy, Beverly Rayner, Alexis Smith," Salli Mcquaid; March.

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

O. (404) 352 8114 info@johnsonlowe.com johnsonlowe.com

# JOHNSON LOWE GALLERY

"Memories, Dreams, Reflections," Ross Owens; March.  
Metro, "Reality in Flux," Ann Elliott Sherman; February.  
San Jose Mercury News, "Some Things Old, New, Assembled and True;" February 26.

- 1992 Creative Loafing, "Murphy's Law," Amy Jinker-Lloyd; December 2.  
Atlanta Journal & Constitution, "More Style Than Substance," Catherine Fox; December 4.  
The Atlanta Journal and Constitution, "Peachtree's Pop Icon," Steve Dollar, August 9.  
Atlanta Magazine, "Go West, Young Man," Vincent Coppola, July. Atlanta  
Homes and Lifestyles, "Warehouse Renaissance," Luanne Sanders, May/June.
- 1991 Under The Dome, "Todd Murphy: Recent Works," University of South Carolina, January.  
The State, Tempo, "Think Big," Jeffrey Day, January 6.  
Creative Loafing, "Roll Models," Luanne Sanders, January 12.  
McKissick Museum Catalogue, "Todd Murphy's Heroic Subjectivism," Bradford R. Collins, January 13.  
The Atlanta Journal Constitution, "Bennett Street Shows Varied 'Visions' and 'Images,'" Jerry Cullum, January  
The State, Tempo, "Murphy Art Hot, Won't Burn Out," Jeffrey Day, February 3.  
Art in America, "Todd Murphy At Lowe," Amy Jinkner-Lloyd, June.
- 1989 Southern Homes, "The Art of Todd Murphy." High Museum of Art, Atlanta, Georgia  
New Orleans Museum, New Orleans, Louisiana  
Mint Museum, Charlotte, North Carolina  
Triton Museum, Santa Clara, California  
Tampa Museum of Art, Tampa,  
Florida McKissick Museum of Art, Columbia, South Carolina  
The Georgia Museum, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia

## PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

King & Spalding  
Alston & Bird King  
Plow Arts Center  
SAKS Fifth Avenue  
Banana Republic

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

O. (404) 352 8114 info@johnsonlowe.com johnsonlowe.com