

TODD MURPHY

American, b. 1962 - 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.

Todd 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.

SELECT SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2022** Wink, Bill Lowe Gallery, Atlanta, GA
- 2016** Marc Straus, New York, New York
- 2010** Jackson Fine Art, Atlanta, GA
- 2003** Bill Lowe Gallery, Santa Monica, California
- 2002** Bill Lowe Gallery, Atlanta, GA
- 2000** Bill Lowe Gallery, Atlanta, GA
- 1999** Bill Lowe Gallery, Atlanta, GA
High Museum of Art "Artist on the Edge: Sculpture and Drawings | 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, GA
Solo Show 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, GA
- 1991** Bill Lowe Gallery, Atlanta, GA
McKissick Museum of Art, University of South Carolina, Columbia, South
Carolina, curated by Dr. Brad Collins University of South Carolina
- 1990** Bill Lowe Gallery, Atlanta, GA

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, SK
The New Museum, New York City, New York
University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut Catherine Edelman Gallery, Chicago, Illinois
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** The Contemporary International Museum of Art, Buford, Georgia, Atlanta
Gallery Association Group Show
- 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 Spierer, 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.
"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 18
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." MUSEUM COLLECTIONS 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