



**HIGH**

m u s e u m o f a r t

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**SCULPTURE AND DRAWINGS BY FORMER ATLANTAN TODD MURPHY  
ON VIEW AT HIGH MUSEUM OF ART**

*Art at the Edge: Todd Murphy*

February 26 – May 21, 2000

ATLANTA, GA (February 16, 2000)—The High Museum of Art presents the latest exhibition in its “Art at the Edge” series devoted to the best in contemporary art. “Art at the Edge: Todd Murphy” is the first museum exhibition to examine the artist’s sculptural work. Murphy, one of the most successful contemporary artists to hail from Atlanta, is best known for his large, dark, often dramatic paintings, but he has also turned his attention in recent years to making sculpture. The installation includes nine sculptures, all produced since 1995, in addition to several of Murphy’s drawings that complement the sculptural work. The High’s own “Boy Looks East” (1995) is among the sculptures that will be on view. Carrie Przybilla, the High’s curator of modern and contemporary art, is the curator of the show.

“Art at the Edge: Todd Murphy” is organized by the High Museum of Art. The exhibition is sponsored by Banana Republic and Corporate Environments.

Todd Murphy creates his sculptures from a wide variety of found materials, including broken furniture, old toys, used clothing and antiquated tools. Compared with his paintings, which evolve slowly over time and which tend toward heroic proportions, his sculptures are more spontaneous and modest in size. His drawings are even more immediate. “He renders his drawings quickly in a childlike manner on pieces of tattered paper that emphasize the timeworn feeling typical of his work. Despite their seeming crudity, they can also be quite lyrical,” explained

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Przybilla. The drawings do not serve as studies for other works, but rather “reflect the artist’s thought processes and provide an additional avenue for exploring a subject,” she continued.

The intimate scale of the works in the show and their dramatic arrangement within the High’s galleries creates, according to Przybilla, “an environment that is both intensely personal and collectively understood, simultaneously eerie, mysterious, and inviting.” Przybilla has visited Murphy’s studio on a number of occasions. Each time, she recalls, “I have left with a sense of haunted remembrance and enigmatic drama. With this exhibition of Murphy’s recent small sculptures and drawings, I hope to share this experience with museum visitors while at the same time exploring the ideas and motifs that form the core of his work.”

Todd Murphy was raised in Atlanta and graduated with a BFA from the University of Georgia. He currently resides in Charlottesville, Virginia.

### CONCURRENT EXHIBITS (Midtown and Downtown)

- **African-American Self-Taught Art from the High Museum of Art Collection**, High Museum of Art Folk Art and Photography Galleries, Downtown, June 19, 1999 – April 15, 2000
- **Self-Taught Women Artists**, High Museum of Art, November 24, 1999 – May 14, 2000
- **Frank Lloyd Wright Furniture from the High Museum of Art Collection**, High Museum of Art, January 8 – June 18, 2000
- **John Twachtman: An American Impressionist**, High Museum of Art, February 26 – May 21, 2000
- **American Art circa 1900**, High Museum of Art, February 26 – May 21, 2000
- **Building a Collection: Recent Photography Acquisitions in the High Museum of Art**, High Museum of Art Folk Art and Photography Galleries, Downtown, March 11 – June 24, 2000
- **Selections from the Photography Collection**, High Museum of Art, High Museum of Art Folk Art and Photography Galleries, Downtown, April 22 – May 5, 2000

### HIGH MUSEUM OF ART

The High Museum of Art is located at 1280 Peachtree Street (Peachtree at 16<sup>th</sup> Street) in midtown Atlanta. For additional information, the public may call (404) 733-HIGH or visit the High’s web site at [www.high.org](http://www.high.org). To obtain additional visuals or a copy of the artist’s book and CD-ROM “Into the Blue,” the media may call (404) 733-4437.

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