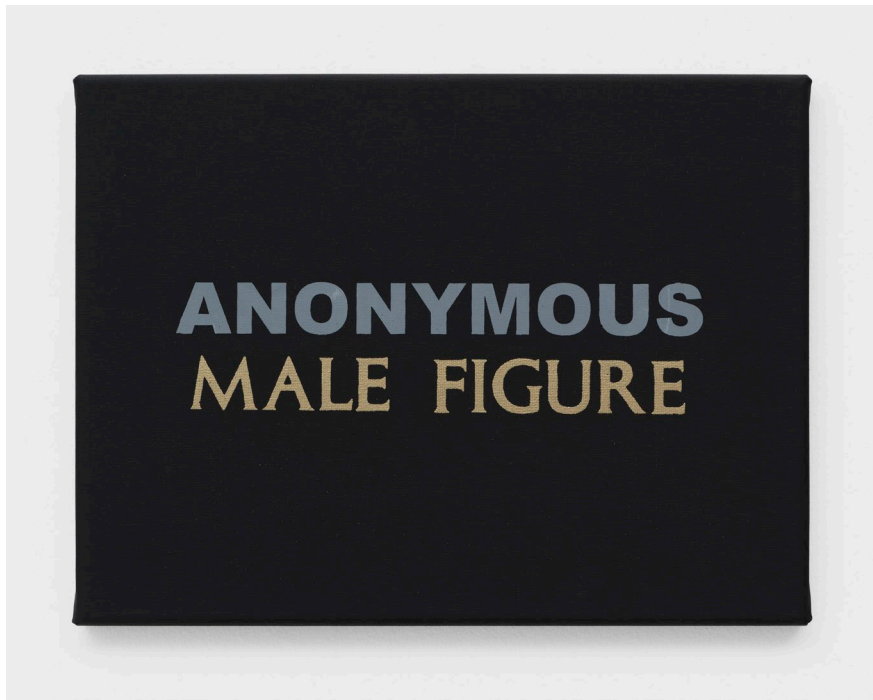


Soft Opening,



Dean Sameshima
Anonymous Male Figure, 2024
Acrylic and silkscreen on canvas
30 × 40 cm

Dean Sameshima works across a variety of forms including photography, collage, and found imagery. The artist has created a body of work that plumbs the depths of subcultures and queer identity, exploring ideas of eroticism, history, and the relationship between art and its viewer.

The artist sees his continuing *Anonymous Portraits* series as portraits, with the genesis of the series a reference to a 1967 novel *The Sexual Outlaw* by John Rechy, which was dedicated “to all the anonymous outlaws”. In considering the recent US book bans and other such literary restrictions throughout history, Sameshima considers the texts that may have been overlooked over the centuries. What would happen if people had to live without books about our history/ies? Many queer writers and artists used alternative names when publishing their work in order to preserve their safety by avoiding public outing. Sameshima thus emphasises the usefulness of anonymity that still remains within more conservative contexts and communities, not only in terms of sexual identity. These works, their typography and the colour schemes from their cover designs reference texts from the artist’s personal library, which includes queer art historical and critical texts. Additionally, with this series Sameshima quotes from On Kawara’s date paintings in terms of not only scale and composition but the artist’s distillation of specific and intimate information.

Sameshima’s (b. 1971, Torrance, CA) recent exhibitions include Galerie 5b, Glasgow (2026 - solo); Soft Opening, London (2026, 2024 - solo); Good or Trash, Paris (2025 - solo); Neuer Aachener Kunstverein, Aachen (2025 - solo); Getty Museum, Los Angeles (2025); PPOW, New York (2024 - solo); California Museum of Photography, Riverside (2024); ICA, Los Angeles (2024); Tina Kim Gallery, New York (2023); Queer Thoughts, New York (2023 - solo); Queer Public Space at Museum of Sex, New York (2023) and at Amsalón, Berlin (2023). In 2024, Sameshima was included in the 60th International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia, curated by Adriano Pedrosa. Recent publications include and *Portrait of a City* (Galerie 5b, Glasgow, 2026) *Wonderland* (Soft Opening, 2026), published on the occasion of a solo exhibition of the same title, and *being alone* (Soft Opening, 2024). Sameshima’s work is held in the permanent collections of the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; Getty Museum, Los Angeles; Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Henry Art Gallery, Seattle; The Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University, Stanford and Sunpride Foundation, Hong Kong. He was the 2022 recipient of The Artist Acquisition Club Award. The artist lives and works in Berlin.