## Koichi Sato Adolescent Sanctuary

56 Henry June 5 - August 1, 2025 56 HENRY is pleased to present *Adolescent*Sanctuary, an installation by Koichi Sato. Split into two
rooms, Sato's work presents a beautiful, disaffected face
in the front room and slowly reveals itself through the
interior of a teenager's bedroom in the back space.

The front is filled with refined and delicate oil portraits. In the typical style of the artist, these works pay special attention to pattern and color, though this time the colors are muted and the patterns subdued. Rolling wide-set eyes and many-fingered hands compound the dreamlike atmosphere of the works. The thin, hazy layers of oil paint make this harem of beautiful and bored women seem to glow. Each with their own name, outfit, and expression, Sato is able to infuse each portrait with a personality that is singular, each one alluring and untouchable in its own way.

Toward the back end of the gallery, Sato's work departs from the aloofness and ennui of the paintings. Strewn around the room are ceramic sculptures of empty cigarette boxes and opened candy. Drawings and records fabricated by the artist are displayed in the maximalist manner of a teenager's bedroom. The drawings are bursting with life: visible pencil strokes form the basis of the patterns and subjects, creating movement and organized chaos within them. The records, similarly, reference existing album covers and insert swirls and patterns into negative space.

In the series of drawings, the artist's references are far flung. A portion of them are covers or famous scenes from nostalgic teenage movies: Empire Records, Star Wars, and Space Jam, for example. Another selection are tableaus of Americana, portraits and moments in time from every era: young women at an intersection filled with recognizable brands and signs, a middle aged man standing near a grand-looking bookshelf, an old-timey country musician. Sato's drawings and their meticulous attention to detail and pattern present an optimistic reflection on American culture. The final set of works draw from imagery in traditional Japanese folklore. Similar to tapestries and wood block prints common in the Edo Period, dancing skeletons, deities, and beautiful women look on as battles against demons are waged in dense and maze-like compositions.

The artist unites the disparate mediums through a consistent stylistic voice that is equal parts formal and whimsical. Sato's joyful worldview and reverence for American multiculturalism produce a suite of works that inspire and delight.

## **Koichi Sato**

Born 1974, Japan. Lives and works in New York, NY

**Koichi Sato** is a self-taught painter whose practice revolves around the multicultural landscape of New York City. Unwaveringly cheerful, Sato's portraits run the gamut of Americana: history, music, and sports feature prevalently due to the source material of Sato's paintings and drawings coming largely from images in vintage magazines. The visual language of bright and inviting color, coupled with a focus on pattern and linework give the portraits a sense of motion and sound. The subjects' many fingers and rolling eyes contribute to a sense of surreal ecstasy, a moment of beauty accessible only through an imperfect relay of information.

Sato has been the subject of solo exhibitions at NANZUKA in Tokyo, Jack Hanley in New York and East Hampton, Bill Brady Gallery in Miami, Woaw in Hong Kong, and the Hole, New York. Selected group exhibitions include Bortolami, New York; Stems Gallery in Brussels; Global Pop Underground at Parco Museum, Tokyo; Punch at Jeffrey Deitch in both Los Angeles and New York; and Galerie Nagel Draxler in Cologne.



Koichi Sato Hiroe, 2025 Oil on canvas 16 x 12 in 40.6 x 30.5 cm



Koichi Sato Kaede, 2025 Oil on linen 16 x 12 in 40.6 x 30.5 cm



Koichi Sato Miko, 2025 Oil on linen 16 x 12 in 40.6 x 30.5 cm



Koichi Sato Yayoi, 2025 Oil on canvas 16 x 12 in 40.6 x 30.5 cm



Koichi Sato Shizuka, 2025 Oil on canvas 16 x 12 in 40.6 x 30.5 cm



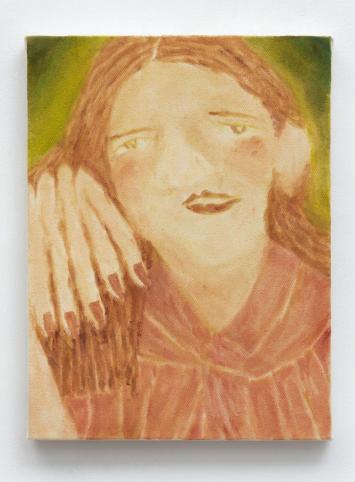
Koichi Sato Minako, 2025 Oil on canvas 16 x 12 in 40.6 x 30.5 cm



Koichi Sato Coco, 2025 Oil on canvas 16 x 12 in 40.6 x 30.5 cm



Koichi Sato Sonoko, 2025 Oil on canvas 16 x 12 in 40.6 x 30.5 cm



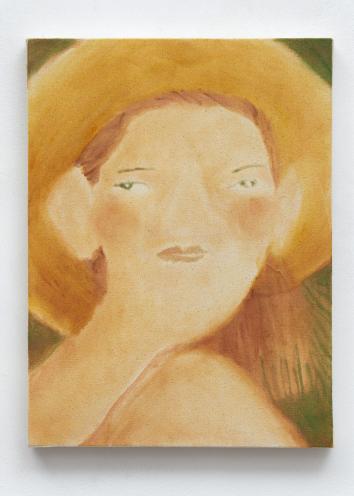
Koichi Sato Jury, 2025 Oil on canvas 16 x 12 in 40.6 x 30.5 cm



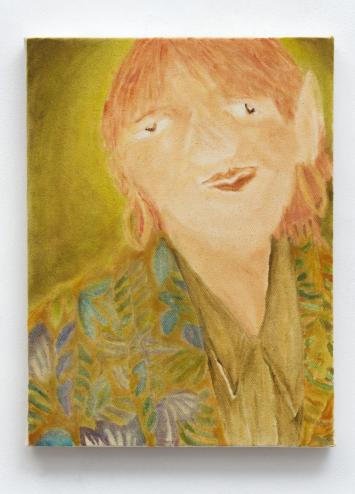
Koichi Sato Toki, 2025 Oil on linen 16 x 12 in 40.6 x 30.5 cm



Koichi Sato Kylie, 2025 Oil on canvas 16 x 12 in 40.6 x 30.5 cm



Koichi Sato Summer Rain, 2025 Oil on canvas 16 x 12 in 40.6 x 30.5 cm



Koichi Sato Elfin, 2025 Oil on canvas 16 x 12 in 40.6 x 30.5 cm



Koichi Sato Gold dust Lindsey, 2025 Oil on canvas wrapped wood panel 16 x 12 in 40.6 x 30.5 cm



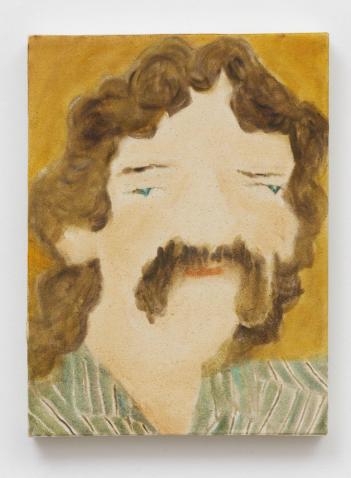
Koichi Sato *Masao*, 2025 Oil on canvas wrapped wood panel 16 x 12 in 40.6 x 30.5 cm



Koichi Sato Shinji, 2025 Oil on canvas wrapped wood panel 16 x 12 in 40.6 x 30.5 cm



Koichi Sato Nathaniel, 2025 Oil on canvas wrapped wood panel 16 x 12 in 40.6 x 30.5 cm



Koichi Sato
Tommy, 2025
Oil on canvas wrapped wood panel
16 x 12 in
40.6 x 30.5 cm



Koichi Sato Moment in Peace 02, 2025 Ceramic 7/8 x 2 1/4 x 3 3/8 in 2.2 x 5.7 x 8.6 cm



Koichi Sato *Moment in Peace 01,* 2025 Ceramic 7/8 x 2 1/4 x 3 1/4 in 2.2 x 5.7 x 8.3 cm



Koichi Sato
Oasis in The desert 02, 2025
Ceramic
2 5/8 x 2 3/4 x 5 1/4 in
6.7 x 7 x 13.3 cm



Koichi Sato Spirit in Nature (Orange), 2025 Ceramic 2 3/8 x 2 3/4 x 4 3/4 in 6 x 7 x 12.1 cm



Koichi Sato Spirit in Nature (Blue), 2025 Ceramic 2 5/8 x 2 3/8 x 4 3/4 in 6.7 x 6 x 12.1 cm



Koichi Sato Spirit in Nature (green), 2025 Ceramic 1 3/4 x 3 1/4 x 5 1/4 in 4.4 x 8.3 x 13.3 cm



Koichi Sato
Oasis in The desert 01, 2025
Ceramic
2 1/4 x 3 x 5 1/2 in
5.7 x 7.6 x 14 cm



Koichi Sato

Adult top must-have item 02, 2025

Ceramic

4 1/8 x 2 3/4 x 1/4 in

10.5 x 7 x 0.6 cm



Koichi Sato Bright Future, 2025 Ceramic 4 x 2 5/8 x 1/4 in 10.2 x 6.7 x 0.6 cm



Koichi Sato

Adult top must-have item 01, 2025

Ceramic

3 7/8 x 2 3/4 x 1/2 in

9.8 x 7 x 1.3 cm



Koichi Sato Grateful Reset, 2025 Ceramic 3 1/2 x 2 5/8 x 1/4 in 8.9 x 6.7 x 0.6 cm



Koichi Sato Drops of 5,000 years, 2025 Ceramic 6 x 1 3/4 x 1 in 15.2 x 4.4 x 2.5 cm



Koichi Sato *Life's* essence, 2025 Ceramic 5 1/4 x 1 1/4 x 1 1/4 in 13.3 x 3.2 x 3.2 cm



Koichi Sato No Sex, No Surfing, 2025 Ceramic 2 3/8 x 2 3/8 x 1 in 6 x 6 x 2.5 cm



Koichi Sato
Melting in the brain,
2025
Ceramic
3/4 x 6 x 3 1/2 in
1.9 x 15.2 x 8.9 cm



Koichi Sato
Milky Way Galaxy,
2025
Ceramic
1 1/8 x 4 5/8 x 2 1/8 in
2.9 x 11.7 x 5.4 cm



Koichi Sato Let's have a break, 2025 Ceramic 1/4 x 4 1/8 x 3 1/8 in 0.6 x 10.5 x 7.9 cm



Koichi Sato
Hungry Grizzly Bear,
2025
Ceramic
1 x 4 3/8 x 1 7/8 in
2.5 x 11.1 x 4.8 cm



Koichi Sato For Chocolate Lovers Only, 2025 Ceramic 7/8 x 4 3/4 x 2 3/4 in 2.2 x 12.1 x 7 cm



Koichi Sato Hungry Sloth Bear, 2025 Ceramic 5 x 3 1/2 x 1 1/4 in 12.7 x 8.9 x 3.2 cm



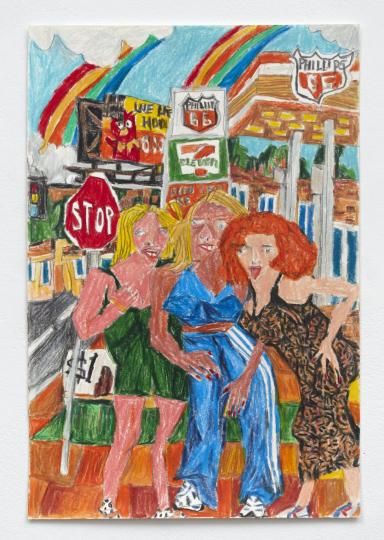
Koichi Sato Healthy eating, 2025 Ceramic 5 x 3 x 1 in 12.7 x 7.6 x 2.5 cm



Koichi Sato Empty Universe, 2025 Ceramic 5 x 1 1/2 x 1 5/8 in 12.7 x 3.8 x 4.1 cm



Koichi Sato
Melting in the brain
02, 2025
Ceramic
4 3/4 x 4 x 1 in
12.1 x 10.2 x 2.5 cm



Koichi Sato GALS, 2025 Colored pencil on paper 12 x 8 in 30.5 x 20.3 cm



Koichi Sato
IKU DOS, 2025
Colored pencil on paper
12 x 8 in
30.5 x 20.3 cm



Koichi Sato 5th Floor Walk Up, 2025 Colored pencil on paper 12 x 8 in 30.5 x 20.3 cm



Koichi Sato
Heaven to Hell, 2025
Colored pencil on paper
12 x 8 in
30.5 x 20.3 cm



Koichi Sato Devils, 2025 Colored pencil on paper 12 x 8 in 30.5 x 20.3 cm



Koichi Sato Depopulation, 2025 Colored pencil on paper 12 x 8 in 30.5 x 20.3 cm



Koichi Sato Curse, 2025 Colored pencil on paper 12 x 8 in 30.5 x 20.3 cm



Koichi Sato
Hell, 2025
Colored pencil on paper
12 x 8 in
30.5 x 20.3 cm



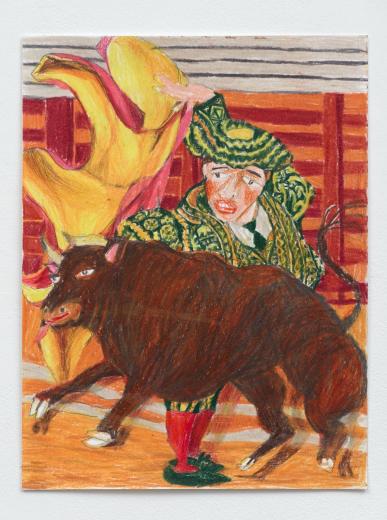
Koichi Sato Roberts, 2025 Colored pencil on paper 12 x 8 in 30.5 x 20.3 cm



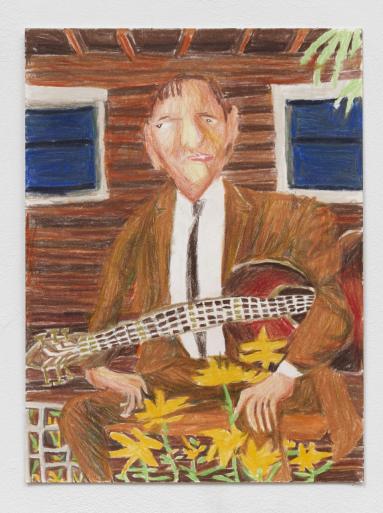
Koichi Sato Life Is Not Easy, but Fast, 2025 Colored pencil on paper 12 x 9 in 30.5 x 22.9 cm



Koichi Sato Hide and Seek, 2025 Colored pencil on paper 12 x 9 in 30.5 x 22.9 cm



Koichi Sato Blood Bull Bullet 01, 2025 Colored pencil on paper 12 x 9 in 30.5 x 22.9 cm



Koichi Sato Requia, 2025 Colored pencil on paper 12 x 9 in 30.5 x 22.9 cm



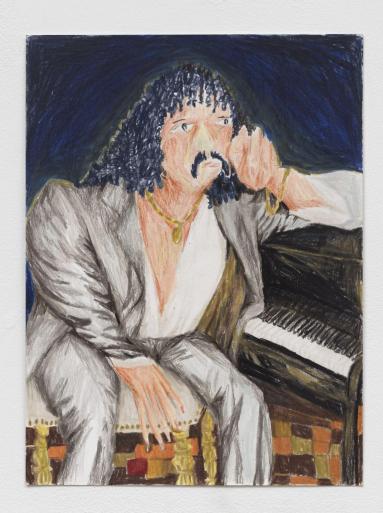
Koichi Sato Soul Singer, 2025 Colored pencil on paper 12 x 9 in 30.5 x 22.9 cm



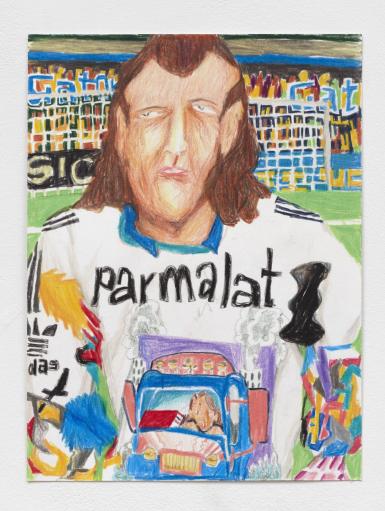
Koichi Sato
Old man and Old armchair
Colored pencil on paper
12 x 9 in
30.5 x 22.9 cm



Koichi Sato Forecast future, 2025 Colored pencil on paper 12 x 9 in 30.5 x 22.9 cm



Koichi Sato New Music is born, 2025 Colored pencil on paper 12 x 9 in 30.5 x 22.9 cm



Koichi Sato

Hard timescreate Strong Man, 2025

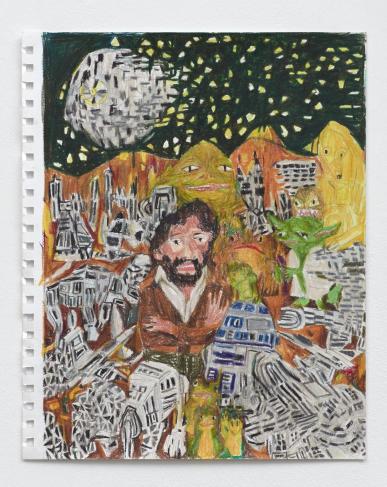
Colored pencil on paper

12 x 9 in

30.5 x 22.9 cm



Koichi Sato Super Star, 2025 Colored pencil on paper 12 x 9 in 30.5 x 22.9 cm



Koichi Sato
Hard Direction, 2025
Colored pencil on paper
12 x 9 1/2 in
30.5 x 24.1 cm



Koichi Sato

Good Times create Weak people, 2025

Colored pencil on paper

12 x 9 3/4 in

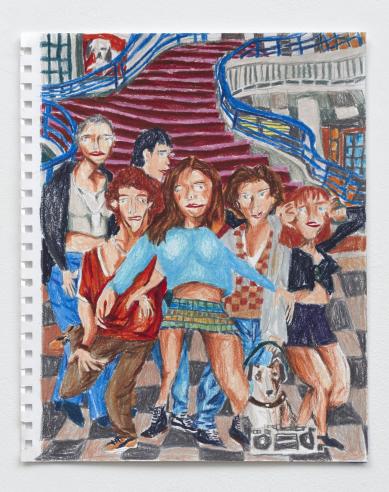
30.5 x 24.8 cm



Koichi Sato

Oasis in the city, 2025

Colored pencil on paper
12 x 9 3/4 in
30.5 x 24.8 cm



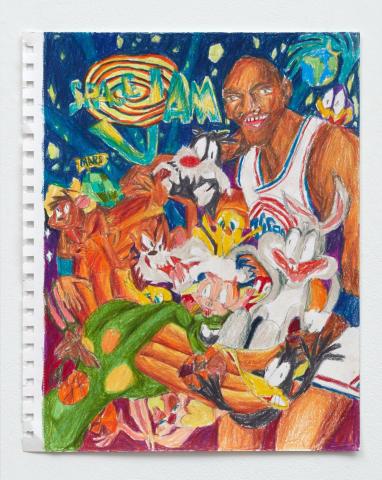
Koichi Sato Empire Record, 2025 Colored pencil on paper 12 x 9 3/4 in 30.5 x 24.8 cm



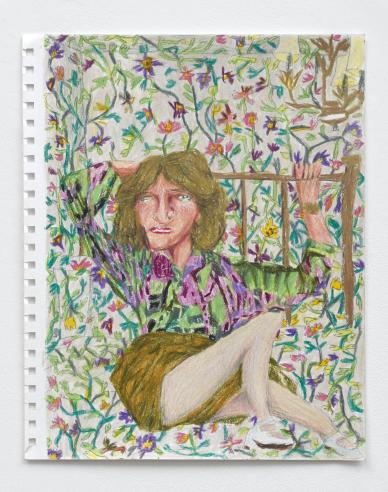
Koichi Sato Crash, 2025 Colored pencil on paper 12 x 9 3/4 in 30.5 x 24.8 cm



Koichi Sato Lives in the world, 2025 Colored pencil on paper 12 x 9 3/4 in 30.5 x 24.8 cm



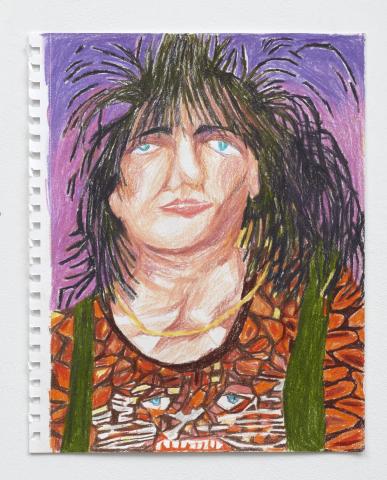
Koichi Sato Space Jam, 2025 Colored pencil on paper 12 x 9 3/4 in 30.5 x 24.8 cm



Koichi Sato Flower Rom, 2025 Colored pencil on paper 12 x 9 3/4 in 30.5 x 24.8 cm



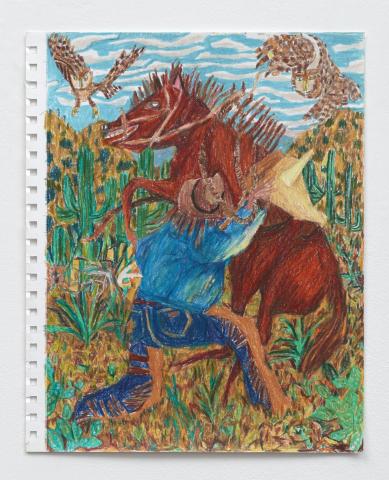
Koichi Sato Party, 2025 Colored pencil on paper 12 x 9 3/4 in 30.5 x 24.8 cm



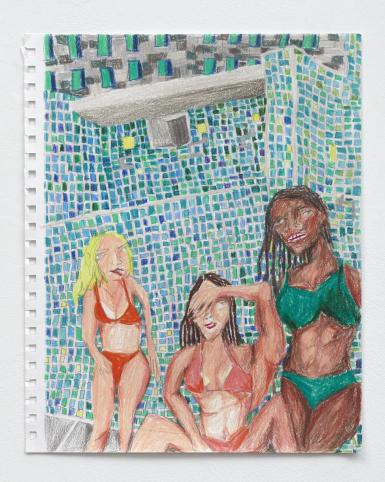
Koichi Sato two Tigers, 2025 Colored pencil on paper 12 x 9 3/4 in 30.5 x 24.8 cm



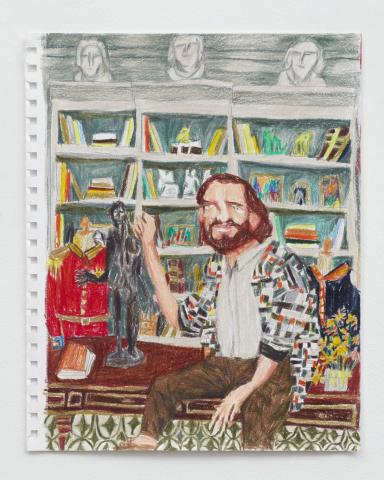
Koichi Sato Meeting Room 03, 2025 Colored pencil on paper 12 x 9 3/4 in 30.5 x 24.8 cm



Koichi Sato Escape to Freedom, 2025 Colored pencil on paper 12 x 9 3/4 in 30.5 x 24.8 cm



Koichi Sato Summer Sunshine Shower, 2025 Colored pencil on paper 12 x 9 3/4 in 30.5 x 24.8 cm



Koichi Sato Meeting Room 02,2025 Colored pencil on paper 12 x 9 3/4 in 30.5 x 24.8 cm



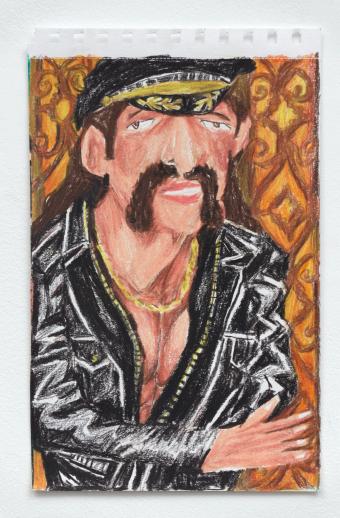
Koichi Sato Meeting Room 01, 2025 Colored pencil on paper 12 x 9 3/4 in 30.5 x 24.8 cm



Koichi Sato Meeting Room 04, 2025 Colored pencil on paper 12 x 9 3/4 in 30.5 x 24.8 cm



Koichi Sato Before Session, 2025 Colored pencil on paper 9 1/2 x 6 in 24.1 x 15.2 cm



Koichi Sato
One Afternoon, 2025
Colored pencil on paper
9 1/2 x 6 in
24.1 x 15.2 cm



Koichi Sato feel fishy, 2025 Colored pencil on paper 9 1/2 x 6 in 24.1 x 15.2 cm



Koichi Sato Tensed up, 2025 Colored pencil on paper 9 1/2 x 6 in 24.1 x 15.2 cm









































## **Solo and Two Person Exhibitions**

| 2025 | Nerdy Nerd Neck, NANZUKA, Tokyo, Japan                                  |
|------|---|
| 2024 | Specifically Random, Nanzuka Underground, Tokyo, Japan                  |
| 2022 | Inner Harvest, Jack Hanley Gallery, New York, NY                        |
| 2021 | Koichi Sato, Jack Hanley Gallery, New York, NY                          |
|      | Susumu Kamijo & Koichi Sato, Nobunaga 02, GNYP Gallery, Berlin, Germany |
|      | Koichi Sato, Bill Brady Gallery, Miami, FL                              |
| 2020 | Hope Eight Days a Week, The Hole, New York, NY                          |
|      | Susumu Kamijo & Koichi Sato, Nobunaga, Bill Brady Gallery, Miami, FL    |
| 2019 | Ecstasy Journey, WOAW, Hong Kong  |
| 2017 | Living in America, Bill Brady Gallery, Miami, FL                        |

## **Selected Group Exhibitions**

- 2024 Needles and Pins, The Mass, Tokyo, Japan 2023 FriendsWithYou | Koichi Sato | Emily Yong Beck, The Pit, Los Angeles, CA RIPE, Harper's Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA New Origins - Level Unlocked, Andrea Festa Fine Art, Rome, Italy
  - Brick by Brick, Ross Kramer Gallery, New York, NY
  - Drunk vs Stoned. The Ranch. Montauk. NY
  - STRANGE FIGURES, Marvin Gardens, New York, NY HUMDRUM, CC Andratx, Mallorca, Spain
  - PAINTERS OF MODERN LIFE, Carl Kostyál, Ibiza, Spain
- Nobunaga, Jack Hanley Gallery, East Hampton, NY 2022 Sato, Kamijo, Wood, Plaza Hotel, Las Vegas, NV
  - Tutti Frutti, Plan X, Milan, Italy Double Trouble, Another Gallery, Paris, France
  - A Place of One's Own, Andrea Festa Fine Art, Rome, Italy
  - Figuration NOW!, Stems Gallery, Brussels, Belgium
- 2021 The Upstairs, Bortolami Gallery, New York, NY Breadcrumbs, Galerie Nagel Draxler, Cologne, Germany
  - Summer Summer Group Show, Ross+Kramer Gallery, New York, NY
  - Nature Morte, The Hole, New York, NY
  - 1988, Anthony Gallery, Chicago, IL
    - Oasis, The Pit, Los Angeles, CA

It's Cozy Inside, Nepenthes NY, New York, NY

- Home Alone, ATM Gallery, New York, NY