

Good or Trash
Galerie d'art
91 quai de Valmy

Dean Sameshima

Portraits

October 17, 2025 - November 15, 2025

Good or Trash is pleased to present *Portraits*, an exhibition of new works by Dean Sameshima, marking a continuation of his long-term exploration of identity, memory, and the structures through which communities and personal histories are formed, shared, and sometimes erased.

The 'Anonymous Portrait' series finds its origin in John Rechy's book *The Sexual Outlaw* (1977) which explores the gay underground culture of 1970s Los Angeles, focusing on sexual freedom, social marginalization, and the politics of desire. For Sameshima the notion of anonymity became the conceptual seed for a body of work that investigates the tension between the collective and the individual, the visible and the unseen.

This series which began in 2020 has expended thanks to book titles taken from Sameshima's personal library. By isolating and reconfiguring these words, the artist constructs an aesthetic of portraiture without figures, where language stands in for the human presence. These textual compositions become visual records of the communities, histories, and emotional geographies embedded within his archive.

As the series continues to develop, Sameshima's use of color and fonts evolved from its reference - original book covers - to a more open and unrestricted creative. The chromatic shifts lend the works a distinct emotional tone, turning linguistic fragments into quiet, meditative fields of meaning.

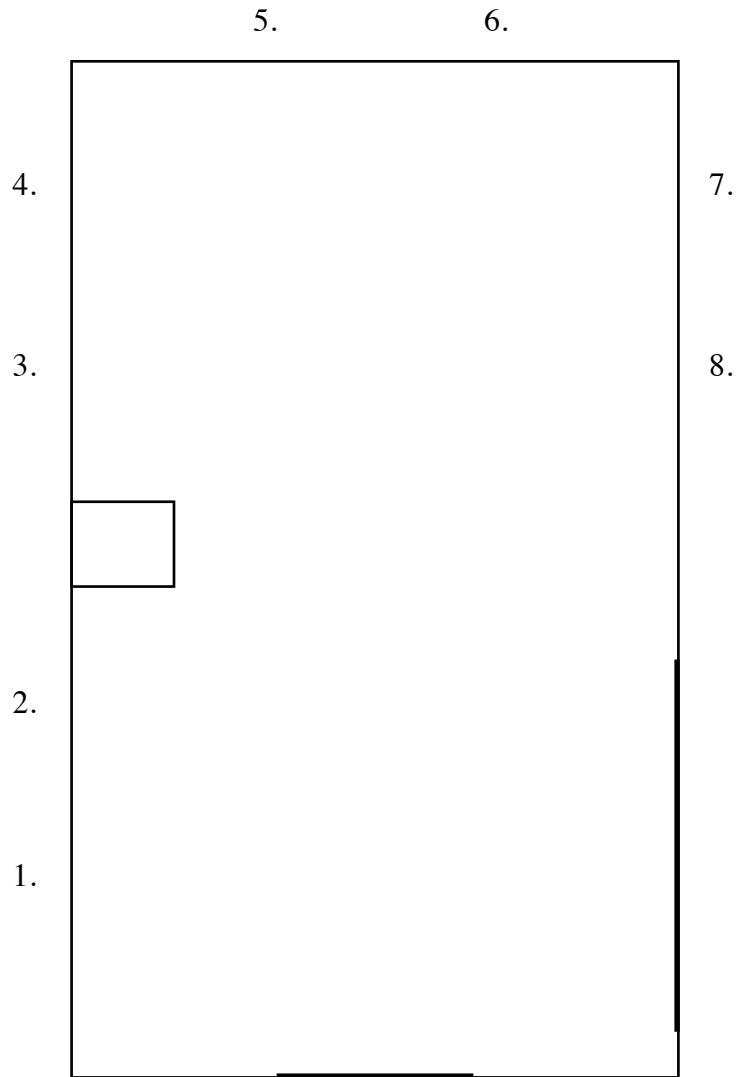
'Anonymous Portraits' also reflects on the fragility of cultural preservation. Considering the renewed rise of book censorship and historical erasure, the artist imagines what it would mean for entire bodies of knowledge to disappear. His paintings thus act as both abstract memorials and affirmations of the sustaining power of art and language.

Rooted in a literary impulse that has guided Sameshima's practice since the 1990s, these works continue his investigation of personal archives, subcultures, and the spaces where embodied presence and disappearances operate.

Dean Sameshima (b.1971) has exhibited internationally for over two decades, with solo and two-person shows at Soft Opening (London), Queer Thoughts (New York), PPOW (New York) and Neuer Aachener Kunstverein (Aachen). His work has also been presented in major group exhibitions such as the *60th Venice Biennale* (Venice), *Queer Histories* at MASP (São Paulo), *Queer Lens* at the Getty Museum (Los Angeles), *Scratching at the Moon*, ICA (Los Angeles), *Global Cities* at Tate Modern (London).

His work is represented in significant public and private collections such as Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, Henry Art Gallery, Seattle, Museum of Art São Paulo (MASP), São Paulo, among others.

Portraits is Dean Sameshima's first exhibition in France. This show has been possible thanks to the support of Soft Opening.



1. Dean Sameshima
Anonymous Splendour, 2025
 Silkscreen and acrylic on canvas,
 Unique 30 x 40 cm, 11 3/4 x 15 3/4 inches

2. Dean Sameshima
Anonymous City Boy, 2025
 Silkscreen and acrylic on canvas, Unique
 30 x 40 cm, 11 3/4 x 15 3/4 inches

3. Dean Sameshima
Anonymous Rough Trade, 2025
 Silkscreen and acrylic on canvas, Unique
 30 x 40 cm, 11 3/4 x 15 3/4 inches

4. Dean Sameshima
Anonymous Torso, 2025
 Silkscreen and acrylic on canvas, Unique
 30 x 40 cm, 11 3/4 x 15 3/4 inches

5. Dean Sameshima
Anonymous Homosexual, 2025
 Silkscreen and acrylic on canvas, Unique
 30 x 40 cm, 11 3/4 x 15 3/4 inches

6. Dean Sameshima
Anonymous Theater, 2025
 Silkscreen and acrylic on canvas, Unique
 30 x 40 cm, 11 3/4 x 15 3/4 inches

7. Dean Sameshima
Anonymous Perfect Moment, 2025
 Silkscreen and acrylic on canvas, Unique
 30 x 40 cm, 11 3/4 x 15 3/4 inches

8. Dean Sameshima
Anonymous Nude, 2025
 Silkscreen and acrylic on canvas, Unique
 30 x 40 cm, 11 3/4 x 15 3/4 inches