

Lyles & King

Notes on Masculinity

Alannah Farrell, Ben Gould, Caleb Hahne Quintana, D'Angelo Lovell Williams, Dennis Oppenheim, Elmer Guevara, Gray Wielebinski, Ian Lewandowski, Jimmy DeSana, Ken Gun Min, Keltie Ferris, Kurt Kren/Günter Brus, Lynsey Addario, Marcel Alcalá, Sam Lipp, Shikeith, Srijon Chowdhury, Ulay

February 16 - March 16, 2024

Opening Reception: February 16, 6-8pm

Notes on Masculinity explores and probes the idea of masculinity through the representation of male subjects. The use of "notes" signals that the exhibition hardly aims to encompass the word "masculinity" and all it suggests, but to point to its expansiveness, contests its boundaries, and envisions its possibilities. Using historical works by Günter Brus, Dennis Oppenheim, Jimmy DeSana, and Ulay as context, the exhibition puts forward recent paintings, photography, and video that display the desires, weaknesses, gifts, and trappings of their male subject's masculinity. The work in the exhibition offers a range of lived experiences across lines of gender, class, and race. It offers a look into various spaces where masculinity is predominant, violent, introspective, joyful, radical, forced, enforced, or allowed. *Notes on Masculinity* comes in the wake of the reckoning of the Me Too Movement, greater recognition of the trans community, fear as gay marriage and LGBTQ+ rights continue to be under threat and the reality that nearly three out of four deaths of despair - by suicide and drug addiction - are men. In the current discussion around the "crisis of masculinity" and "toxic masculinity", it makes sense to look at the polyphony of masculinity and to question its implications, meaning, and possibilities.