

PRIMER

By Matthew Craven

Foreword by Leslie Jones

American artist Matthew Craven is a master of collage, with a consistent DNA throughout his work – an obsession with shape, color, pattern and a taste for visually remixing figures and objects in his own unique style.

Digging through bookstore basements, local libraries, and school storerooms, Craven utilizes found images of lost relics and archaeological curiosities from textbooks that once told the Western history of global art and culture. By overlaying tribal and Greek sculptures onto his hand-drawn optical designs, or on the back of vintage movie posters, Craven seeks to create a new handmade universe, juxtaposing imagery from different cultures and time periods to celebrate commonalities.

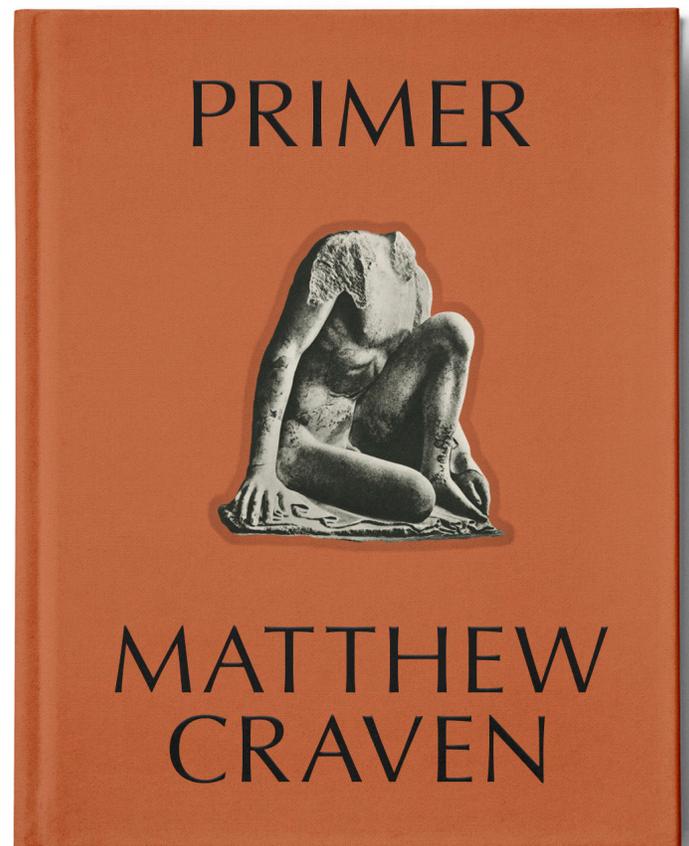
Now for the first time, Anthology Editions will bring the artist's source material back to its original context: the book. *PRIMER* is an introduction to the artist's visual world. Working collaboratively, Craven and Anthology Editions have created a new work of art that presents both a "revised" version of global art history and a mesmerizing vernacular of new symbols and designs. Featuring an introduction by LACMA curator Leslie Jones, *PRIMER*, is the first publication of Craven's art.

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"Craven's pictorial revision of global art history is based largely on formal similarities across time, space, and cultures ...humankind's shared impulse to create."

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This pictorial revision of global art history is based largely on similarities across time, space, and cultures —what Craven describes simply as “things made by man.” While a critique of Western imperialism is implied in Craven’s process, the work also summons universal notions of humankind’s shared impulse to create. What he removes is the text or, in his words, the “Western dictation of history.”

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Matthew Craven was born in Michigan. He earned a BFA from Michigan State University, and received his MFA from the School of Visual Arts, NY. He has exhibited widely in the United States and abroad, including solo and two-person exhibitions at David Shelton Gallery, Houston; DCKT Contemporary, NY; Allegra LaViola Gallery, NY; Marvelli Gallery, NY; Gallery Hijinks, San Francisco; Packing, Detroit; and Get This! Gallery, Atlanta.

Leslie Jones is the Curator of Prints & Drawings at LACMA. She specializes in modern and contemporary works on paper.

