

## **Artist Sean M. Johnson – Queer Love**

Sean is an artist and professional commercial photographer. His photographic portraiture series, “Burials” came out of a previous project that explored male identity and sexuality. The artist has a fascination with the concept of ritual and the healing practices we use to try to understand self and awareness. The burial emerged as a ritual to help understand our desire to become what we cannot be or obtain.

A burial is used in various cultures to signify a transition from the living to the afterlife. With extreme care and love, bodies are adorned and prepared to transition to a new world, which can signify better places, reincarnations, but most notably a place of happiness and bliss.

Sean used rituals and metaphors to create burials of LGBTQIA+ individuals in an exploration of their fantasy, or idealized world they would like to exist in. Within a community that is marginalized in many cultures, societies, and religions, the artist seeks to create a dialog that explores ideologies of desire, loss, and hope through fantasy. These burial portraits are care-focused collaborations between the artist and model that embody the model’s idealized worlds; their hopes; and the world they could exist in without the stigmas that are placed on them in ours.

### **bio**

Sean M. Johnson is an interdisciplinary artist based in Portland, Oregon. In 2008, he graduated from The School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University with a MFA in Visual Critical Studies. His work has been exhibited in Berlin, Tel Aviv, Madrid, Barcelona, Lisbon, Montreal, Boston, Philadelphia, New York City, Los Angeles, Portland, and Houston, and has been featured in publications including Frieze, Pref Mag, and Mascular Magazine, among others.