

BIO

### **Kirtika Kain**

Kirtika Kain is a Sydney based artist who investigates caste identity through a material-rich and alchemical art practice. Born into the Dalit caste (formerly known as Untouchable) within India, Kain utilises materials that relate to themes of valuation, corporeality, ritual and tools of Dalit livelihood. By transforming and reclaiming these humble materials into aesthetic objects of value, Kain attempts to shift the personal and collective stigma of caste.

Kirtika Kain received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in 2016 for which she was awarded the Bird Holcomb MFA Scholarship. Upon completing her Master of Fine Arts in 2018, she received the University Medal at the National Art School, Sydney. She was awarded the Lloyd Rees Memorial Youth Art Award and Hornsby Art Prize (Printmaking) in 2017 and has been a finalist in numerous art prizes including Blacktown Art Prize (2017, 2019), Gippsland Print Award (2017), Swan Hill Drawing and Print Prize (2018) and Artspace Mackay Libris Award (2018). She was a finalist in the 2020 Create NSW Emerging Artist Fellowship and was a recipient of the Parramatta Artist Studios program in 2020/21.

### **Sajan Mani**

Sajan Mani is an intersectional artist hailing from a family of rubber tappers in a remote village in the northern part of Kerala, South India. His work voices the issues of marginalized and oppressed peoples of India, via the “Black Dalit body” of the artist. Mani’s performance practice insists upon embodied presence, confronting pain, shame, fear, and power. His personal tryst with his body as a meeting point of history and present opens onto “body” as socio-political metaphor.

Sajan has participated in international biennales, festivals, exhibitions and residencies, including CODA Oslo International Dance Festival, Norway (2019); Ord & Bild, Sweden (2019); India Art Fair (2019); “Specters of Communism”, at Haus der Kunst, Munich (2017); Dhaka Art Summit, Bangladesh (2016); Kampala Art Biennale, Uganda (2016); Kolkata International Performance Arts Festival (2014–16); and Vancouver Biennale, Canada (2014). For 2019 – 2021 he has received an artistic research grant from the Berlin Senat, Fine Arts Scholarship from Braunschweig Projects and the Akademie Schloss Solitude Fellowship, Germany.