

SAJAN MANI, 35

MORVARID K



CURATOR-SPEAK

"I first saw Sajani perform at Chatterjee & Lal, Mumbai, and later, at the Dhaka Art Summit. I admire the simplicity and bravery with which he is able to make strong social statements about modern India."

Growing up in Kannur, Kerala, in a family of rubber tappers, Sajani Mani never imagined going to art school even though he would frequently sketch as a youngster. Armed with degrees in fine arts, English literature and journalism, Mani worked as a migrant labourer for two years in the Gulf. After a period of extensive travel, he decided to participate in the very first edition of the Kochi-Muziris Biennale, which is where he moulded and honed his artistic practice. Speaking about his experience at the Biennale, Mani states, "The 2012 biennale was like a university for me, where Bose Krishnamachari mentored me and Nikhil Chopra guided me in the nuances of performance art."

As a postcolonial Dalit who uses his body to move into varied public spaces and portray the struggles of the marginalised body, the artist explains, "I am interested in the body and the concepts of time and space – the body and its limits, endurance and a black Dalit body's existence. I'm trying to create new languages to address the idea of possible collective futures. My body is a site for the powerless, the untouchable. My performances attempt to evoke pain, shame, power and fear."

Currently, Mani is pursuing a master's degree in 'art in the public space' at the Weissensee Academy of Art, Berlin, where he is busy researching subjects like spatial justice and spatiality.

PHOTOGRAPHY: ROAMING-THE-PLANET
IMAGE COURTESY: VANCOUVER BIENNALE AND ARTIST



CITIZEN SHIP BURN IT DOWN!, LIVE PERFORMANCE, VANCOUVER, CANADA, VANCOUVER BIENNALE, 2014



PHOTOGRAPHY: NOOR PHOTOFACE
IMAGE COURTESY: THE DHAKA ART SUMMIT AND ARTIST



PHOTOGRAPHY: MARION VOGEL
IMAGE COURTESY: THE ARTIST AND HAUS DER KUNST

TOP: #MAKEININDIA, LIVE PERFORMANCE, DURATION 8 HOURS, 4 HOURS EACH DAY, DHAKA ART SUMMIT 2016, DHAKA, BANGLADESH
BOTTOM: 'CASTE-PITAL', DURATIONAL PERFORMANCE 9.30 HOURS, "SPECTERS OF COMMUNISM. A FESTIVAL ON THE REVOLUTIONARY CENTURY", HAUS DER KUNST, MUNICH, GERMANY, 2018