

## SAM KING

### Statement

Sam King (1995) is a British artist, living and working in London. His practice confronts questions of being, embodiment and identity. He explores the relationship between bodies and meaning, and how this has changed over time.

Combining art historical techniques such as chiaroscuro and dramatic composition with digital distortion and different material processes, his work plays with different understandings of the body to challenge a monolithic depiction of corporeality. Portraying bodies in transition between defined states – such as sensuality and abjection, authenticity and superficiality, presence and absence – his work elicits contradictory sensory and emotional responses to reveal the contingent nature of embodiment and the subversive possibilities of representation.

Sam King's latest series combines traditional oil painting with airbrushed fades to form a dialogue between past and present: the authentic, coherent narrative of the Old Masters and the sheen, flat aesthetic of the digital screen along with the fragmentary experience of consumerism. By synthesising alternative interpretations of the body, his practice aims to transgress the experiential boundaries imposed by contemporary conventions.

King studied Fine Art at The Art Academy London, where he developed his technical skills and conceptual basis. The British Artist notably received The Jorge-Aguilar Artist Award and The Liberty Art Award (both 2018), and completed artist residencies at PADA, Portugal, 2020, Art House Holland, Holland, 2019, AucArt, London, 2019, and Jardin Orange Artist Residency, China 2017.