



ARTISTS | Look Out For



## SARAH DRINAN

### Why pay attention?

In 2022, Naarm/Melbourne based artist **Sarah Drinan** was the recipient of a Brett Whiteley Travelling Art Scholarship. Selected by guest artist judge **Mitch Cairns**, Drinan was one of five artists who went on to take part in a two-week residency at Shark Island Kangaroo Valley. In 2023, their painting *Milking Mother and Daughter*, was a finalist in the Ramsay Art Prize at the Art Gallery of South Australia. Most recently, a series of Drinan's paintings were featured in Alice's Room, the hotel room occupied by FUTURES Gallery, Melbourne at the 2023 Spring1883 Art Fair.

### What do they do?

Drinan works predominantly with airbrush and oil stick on canvas. Much of their work is figurative and executed in a painterly, abstract style at a medium to large scale.

Playfully flushed with bright hues, Drinan's paintings melt the human figure into a series of undulating curves that recall the tactile gooiness of gummy candy. Often faceless and disjointed, Drinan paints the body this way to accentuate ambiguity and highlight vulnerability.

### What's going on?

Maintaining their art practice alongside a day job as an occupational therapist, Drinan finds their therapy work informs the subject matter of their art. Possessing a deep understanding of the capabilities and limitations of the human body on both a physical and emotive level, Drinan uses this knowledge to creatively explore what it means to be human. Themes of connectedness, sexuality and pleasure have remained a consistent presence throughout their ongoing practice.

OPPOSITE: Sarah Drinan, *Venus Falling on a Prick*, 2023. Acrylic on canvas, 62 x 55cm.

ABOVE LEFT: Sarah Drinan, *Group Moment*, 2023. Oil and acrylic on canvas, 101 x 107cm.

ABOVE RIGHT: Sarah Drinan, *Spring*, 2023. Acrylic and oil on canvas, 69.5 x 84cm.

COURTESY THE ARTIST AND FUTURES, MELBOURNE

### The artist says...

"My practice is concerned with the body and what it means to be and feel human – our pleasures, perversions, pain, isolation, innate wisdom, and desire for connection. In my recent work I've been thinking of the body as a metaphorical container, functioning as both a conduit and barrier between the inside and outside world."

### See it at...

Drinan's solo exhibition *Flesh Boundaries* shows at FUTURES, Melbourne from 5 October to 4 November, 2023. BRIONY DOWNES