

Krishan Rajapakshe

*Project 1977: Where Does the Crack Start?*

Exhibition 10.04. – 10.05.2026

*Where Does the Crack Start?* is a series of ink drawings by Krishan Rajapakshe that address Sri Lankan society from a distance.

In 1977 Sri Lanka became one of the first South Asian economies to be liberalised. The market was forced open, bringing about radical transformation. The country's social fabric cracked open and everything changed: The desires and dreams of a whole society transformed. As a consequence there were people who could afford coca-cola, marmite, adidas shoes etc., and others who could not. New forms of class distinctions evolved and with it, an aesthetics of aspiration. This new visual regime produced a grammar of dependency organised around consumption.

The drawings examine 1977, not as an historical moment, but as an ongoing project. A project that was never designed to be completed—instead, it was a project intended to penetrate, to restructure, to crack the social fabric at every point of vulnerability, and to leave that cracking in motion. The crack runs through the social body, through communal life and between people. It runs through desire itself.

Krishan uses black ink on white paper. There is a refusal of colour—colour is occupied by the consumerist image to signal, to seduce, to hold the fracture together with brightness. In return, Krishan uses the black line as the bare visual grammar beneath the spectacle.

This exhibition is not about the question of when the crack will close. Instead it asks, how deep it can go.

Krishan Rajapakshe (b. 1984, Sri Lanka) is a Berlin-based artist whose practice begins with drawing as a structural condition of thought. The work expands into editions, textile environments and installations as expanded drawings, and extends through self-publishing, community radio and kitchen-based collective formats. Across these fields, the practice explores how desire, space and subjectivity are shaped by migration, economic rupture and everyday authority.