

Divorce Cake

2019

Oil and acrylic on canvas

150cm x 180cm

The delightful irony of a couple celebrating their divorce with a party and a cake, as they would their wedding day, makes light of the reality of a martial tradition perhaps better left in the past. The baker's disturbing, chocolate smothered, toothy grin and the violent smears of chocolate on the white wall behind her sit in opposition to the elegant white icing, fondant red roses and shiny gold ring in the foreground. The juxtaposition between a looser, more painterly mark-making and Epp's trademark flat, digital pop aesthetic further reinforces this 'chaos meets perfection' spectacle. The bride and groom wedding toppers gleefully hold their divorce papers in their hands, rather than each other, perched on top of a cake that states its job explicitly. Drawing on his own relationship split, Epp playfully teases at a marriage in its death throes, recognising the power of humour when combating even the most calamitous of human experiences, because if you don't laugh you will cry. This painting reflects the paradoxes, contradictions and idiosyncrasies of being human. One of those experiences being the ironic celebration of divorcing someone you used to love.