

## *Evol Love*

2019

Oil and acrylic on canvas

130cm x 150cm

The green stems of two Venus Fly Trap plants intertwine, baring their razor sharp teeth at one another, purple tongues curling below their chins. They appear to be smiling, as if sharing an inside joke that the viewer is not privy to. Together, they form an almost heart-shaped silhouette against a pulsating red curtain background. Their love is dramatised, intensified by Epp's handling of colour, which manages to pull these two plants out of their natural environment and into the hyper-realised, digital sphere of his paintings. Persistence, instincts and intuition are qualities symbolised by the carnivorous plant's ability to patiently lure insects to their doom, yet they are needed too, for lovers entangled in the complexities of a bittersweet romance. Crawling up the neck of the right plant's stem is a spotted cucumber beetle, known for spreading disease and killing plants. Its presence reflects the plants' eventual decay and the death of the insects caught in their traps but also the ultimate demise of a toxic relationship. These two lovers are doomed to fail, when their selfish instincts mean that they desire the insects that fly between them more than each other.