

## *Involvement*

2018

Oil, acrylic and spray paint on canvas

160cm x 180cm

*Involvement* was inspired by Balla's 1912 painting *Dynamism of Dog on Leash*. In Epp's version the sausage dog has escaped the leash, with no owner in sight. He's adorned with a pink, Louis Vuitton Coat, however, the viewer is unable to decipher whether it is real or a fake. A patterns of symbols which shout money, cultural wealth, class; high status, which trickles down into doggy attire, because money cannot buy taste. Other than its designer coat, the sausage dog is only discernible by the flattened shape of his paws, ear and brown markings on his muzzle. In this painting, an array of tensions manifest. The dog is chasing its tail, not engaging with the world; an abstract reflection of contemporary culture in the selfie era. The composition is cyclical, suggesting a never ending loop, echoing the continual attraction and distraction cycle of the Digital Age. The way Epp flattens the dog's form references the Ouroboros symbol of a serpent eating its own tale. which symbolises eternity and introspection. However in Epp's painting, because of how the dog is dressed and the type of dog that it is - a Dachshund - it becomes associated with wealth. Therefore, it is not a spiritual introspection but a narcissistic self involvement.