

Neighbourhood Watch

2018

Oil, acrylic and spray paint on canvas

160cm x 180cm

A gangly, purple figure sits high up on a tree branch. Camouflaged in all black against a starry night sky, he watches intently - through binoculars - at the events happening on the street below him. The smooth surface of the figure's lanky limbs intersect with the orange branch he perches on with colourful transparency. The glare from the lens of his binoculars shoots down onto the ground and out of the frame of the image, like red laser beams. Blobs of green tree leaves decorate the surrounding edges of the painting and in its centre, glows a crescent moon. The neighbourhood watch guy, this character is the community's lookout for crime. Epp delves into an exploration of the overlooked; a portrayal of the everyday heroes, whose job it is to keep life as banal as possible. It is a wonder whether the artist was craving the safety and security of a small-knit community during the time this was painted, as a few months ago, his flat was broken into and all that was stolen were his iPad and cigarettes. It would seem that when real life events happen to the artist, his figures follow suit; articulating the pain of the mundane through their bold and saturated cyborg mystique.