

Pick 'n Mix

2018

Oil, acrylic and spray paint on canvas

150cm x 180cm

Pick 'n Mix presents the familiar scene of picking up your medication prescription from Boots. The pharmacist stands behind a dark grey counter whilst handing out the opaque paper bags containing the overprescribed meds. You can almost hear her asking for the viewer's name and address. In the background, a display of tasty looking pills are arranged in order. They look sugar coated, easily mistaken for sweets, but behind their mouthwatering surface lies the toxic substances that the customer eagerly yearns to be sedated by. A nod to Damien Hirst's iconic *Pill* series, Epp shares a similar intrigue into the anxieties and dependencies brought about by the pharmaceutical industry. The figure adorns a red bindi and jhumka earrings. Her form is inspired by the Hindu God, Vishnu. A blue deity with many limbs, Vishnu is said to act as the preserve, the protector and the sustainer of the world. In *Pick 'n Mix*, he has been incarnated into the offerings of a Boots pharmacist, because pills fix everything. Inspired by Renaissance trompe l'oeil paintings, formally, this painting follows a similar, layered compositional structure to *Carpe Diem*, where it is an image reaching out into another.