

Practice Makes Perfect

2018

Oil, acrylic and spray paint on canvas

150cm x 130cm

Inspiration for this painting was taken from Epp's mum, who works as a dentist and cosmetic surgeon. In *Practice Makes Perfect*, a central figure lies back in the dentist's chair, his black mouth peeled open by the two cosmetic dentists, who loom above him in the top corners of the image. Their cropped faces are covered by blue, sterile masks and held in their semi-transparent, noodle-like hands are a mouth mirror and dental probe instrument, used to prod, poke and pull at the patient's mouth. The top of the figure's head is covered by a blue hairnet, which creates a pattern of diamond fretwork down the left hand side of the painting. The patient eagerly points towards his chosen colour - the bright white - out of a selection of teeth whitening options, which ascend in a colour chart of brown to white on a metal display. Epp had veneers made for him by his mum at the age of eighteen. Having had fake teeth for most of his life, Epp has been immersed in a culture of cosmetic perfection since childhood. This has led to an anxiety to always look his best, which has followed him into adulthood and his approach to art making.