

Romantic Playlist

2018

Oil, acrylic and spray paint on canvas

100cm x 115cm

Two humanoid figures romantically share a pair of Apple headphones under a starry night sky. They are listening to music together; the millennial generation recognising the offering of an earphone as an act of affection between two lovers. One figure's head bulges into the neck of the other, like two cells mutating. The larger figure holds a wilting red rose in its mouth, perhaps a symbol of dwindling romance, its leaves and petals shine like satin against the figure's flat, matt skin. The white wire of the Apple headphones equally resembles the frail arms of the two lovers holding one another. In the Digital Age, human connections made through real communication is replaced with the sharing of technology; the mutual pleasure taken from listening to Spotify or watching Netflix together. Yet, there is a bittersweet feeling to this new age kind of love, which no number of romantic tropes can disguise. Is time spent together mediated by a screen an authentic shared experience? Or does it simply mask crippled communication skills, awkward eye contact and a lack of physical touch, which now consumes those who are more addicted to their online realities than their off.