

Social Chameleon

2018

Oil, acrylic and spray paint on canvas

130cm x 150cm

Social Chameleon features a closeted and empty-hearted clubber who recognises himself in a yellow, wilting flower and the reflection of a hollow bottle. He is wistfully waiting to be worthy of another clubber's notice yet ultimately knows that he will go unnoticed, disguised behind a myriad of colourful club lights. His body droops and sags to the left, mimicking the flower in the foreground. Both are dying from a lack of sustenance and love. The empty glass bottle has no label, it has also been stripped of its identity and its use. Beating in the centre of the figure's body is the red heart emoji. A texting symbol used to express gratitude, love, happiness, hope, or even flirtatiousness, it signifies the figure's desire for and openness to love. The stripes are a homage to Ellsworth Kelley, specifically his *Spectrum* series, which begin and end with the same shade of yellow, a decision that reflects his interests in the sensory effects of colour juxtapositions. Epp's handling of colour, in particular, how he juxtaposes and layers flat, opaque areas of colour to create numerous abstracted shapes and forms follows a similar vein to Kelly but with a new, Post-Digital Pop lens.