

Soggy Ciggy

2018

Oil, acrylic and spray paint on canvas

55cm x 70cm

A pale, grey figure smokes a cigarette in the rain. It's Monday morning in the smoking area at work and this is his third cigarette break. He's procrastinating, avoiding the piles of work on his desk that he was meant to finish on Friday. Graphic blue stripes decorate the painting's surface, resembling falling rain. One of Epp's more stripped back compositions, only four elements make up the complete painting: the dark grey background, the figure's head, the rain and the soggy cigarette. The cigarette has started to droop from the figure's mouth, wet and sodden from the bad weather. He will be constantly relighting it. It's a no longer erect Pall Mall Red Superking, the cheapest brand of cigarettes. Epp would go through a pack of twenty on a bad day. Another one of the artist's vices, smoking and sun beds are his guilty pleasures in times of insecurity and anxiousness. The community and camaraderie notions of social smoking on a night out are replaced by the image of a sad smoker in the rain, with only his cigarette for company. A typical British scene featuring bad weather and bad habits.