

## *Accelerator*

2021

Acrylic and oil on canvas

150 cm x 180 cm

*Accelerator* is part of an on going series of paintings, which explore Epp's sun bed addiction. The figure is contained within a pulsating, red hot vessel that looks simultaneously like some kind of futuristic teleportation device as it does a stand up sun bed. His skin glows with a fluorescent red hue as if the UV strip lights behind him are penetrating straight through his body; exuding the idea of the burning and suffering necessary to look good. Subtle tonal changes on the skin reveal a mask, gloves and boxer tan lines, suggesting that wearing a medical mask and gloves has become as much a part of our everyday routine as putting on a pair of boxers. The background echoes the fluorescent light installations of Dan Flavin and the figure's disproportionately small hands mimic the naive drawings of Rose Wylie. *Accelerator* epitomises man's surrender to technology, millennial narcissism and coping with our generation's ongoing identity crisis, which is fuelled by the shallow pressures of Instagram and an image-based economy. '20:20' beams in the lower right hand corner of the painting. Twenty minutes and twenty seconds left on the sun bed timer. 2020, a year never forgotten by the world.