

Aftersun

2017

Oil, acrylic and spray paint on canvas

150cm x 200cm

The original painting from Epp's *The Tanning Shop* series, *Aftersun* is the beginning of the artist's painted exploration into his obsession with sun beds. An avid sun bed abuser himself, for this painting, Epp takes direct inspiration from his habitual practices. Epp loosely describes the UV strip lights of the sun bed as wobbling stripes of glowing white. The vacillating, abstract white bands add structure to the flatness of the image, placing the figure into a space which is both known and unknown. There is more of a textural element generated by the artist's earlier use of spray paint, creating a blue teal gradient which appears speckled and sprinkled by layers of spray paint. The figure's pink skin has deepened and crisped from the UV rays. He looks like a piece of salmon with radiation sickness, exuding an unnatural, synthetic glow from his skin. He's plugged into Apple earphones, a much needed piece of technology for his twelve minutes inside. His blue sun bed goggles give the appearance of inane eyes and a bawdy boner arises from his black Calvin Klein boxers. One can only imagine the tan lines.