

Biggest Stick

2017

Oil, acrylic and spray paint on canvas

130cm x 150cm

One of Epp's only paintings which doesn't feature a humanoid figure, *Biggest Stick* depicts a cartoon grey dog and its stick. Epp loosely describes the outline of Pit Bull Terrier with clipped ears and a short stocky body. A large, spiked collar wraps around his neck, which despite its cartoon-eque rendering, gives the dog an intimidating aura. It's raining and Epp's dark palette suggests that it's a sombre, murky day in one of London's few parks. The dog is alone, probably having gotten lost from chasing its tennis ball into the depths of the park. Hovering across the dog's mouth is a large wooden stick, painted with painstaking realism. Epp's fresh approach to mark making enables him to create the grainy texture and tonal differences of the wooden stick with confidence. The naturalism of the stick sits in jarring juxtaposition to the flat, graphic execution of the rest of the image. *Biggest Stick* is one of the artist's first paintings in which he solidified his now well known method of combining opposing painterly techniques. This particular method reinforces how Epp takes elements from real, everyday scenes and subverts them into a digital, abstract painting landscape.