

## *Blade Runner*

2019

Oil and acrylic on canvas

200cm x 155cm

A Blade Runner athlete is captured mid-action against an atmospheric night sky. The aubergine purple of the runner's skin glows against the dark background, which is peppered with tiny luminous stars. Like many of Epp's paintings, the figure is situated in surreal landscape, which gleams like the uncanny glare of a screen light. Sprays of soft purple and pale blue trail off the lefthand side of the painting, indicating the speed and power of the figure running. The athlete dons a white Nike headband and AirPods, sweating and focused. The curve of the prosthetic blades look stylish and elegant. Made of light-weight carbon fibre, which is five times stronger than steel, the blades are emblems of modern scientific and technological feats. They almost appear like miniature space capsules enclosed around the figure's feet, further pushing the painting into the realm of the unknown and otherworldly. The title of the painting references Oscar Pistorius, a Paralympic icon now disgraced, he was once a symbol of the superhuman. A bionic, Herculean figure, the supernatural edge of the Blade Runner falls inline with the simulated, artificial feel of Epp's painting style.