

## *Blind Spot*

2019

Oil and acrylic on canvas

170cm x 180cm

A mobster sporting a red mohawk faces off to a British police officer. A diamond of white light is created in the centre of the painting from the light of police officer's body camera reflecting against the light of the criminal's iPhone, as if the pieces of technology are fighting in a duel. The wonky brick background suggests that the figures have confronted one another in the dimly lit street of a back alleyway, dark and grimy. Again, these figures are faceless, the police officer only identifiable by the badge on his custodian helmet and yellow vest. Compared to wifebeater vest, gold hoop and tribal tattoo of his suspect, each figures' superficial identity markers reinforce their social position as authority versus felon. Epp strips the figures of any deeper sense of character that goes beyond the external role of police officer and criminal that society expects them to play. *Blind Spot* is a commentary on the social roles, expectations, responsibilities, and behaviours we adopt in certain situations. The ideas for expected or "normal" behaviour are reinforced by how society interprets who we are by how we look and in this instance, the old age trope of good cop vs bad criminal is affirmed.