

## *Bon Voyage*

2021

Oil and acrylic on canvas

180 cm x 200 cm

A parody of Britney Spear's iconic air hostess look in the music video for *Toxic*, this snaked, anthropomorphic figure is currently demonstrating the flight safety instructions. She's pulling down an oxygen mask from above, performing to the passengers how to safely secure the mask to succulent, dewy lips. Suck and blow. Masks, now commonplace in our everyday lives, Epp makes reference to this as a symbol of breathing as emergency. The structured shoulder pads of her blue uniform flare out like the hood of a cobra snake and at the end of her slithering tail is a knee-high gold boot, which dazzles and glimmers under the cabin lights. The reflective quality of her shoe is mimicked in her silver hooped earring, which dangles below peroxide dyed hair. A thick collar encloses her neck and cinches her waist; another of Epp's female forms, which is exaggerated and blown up into the realm of pin-up caricature. Above her is the familiar 'No Smoking' and 'Seatbelt' sign. The figure pops against an obscure, hazy grey background, which loosely describes the interior of the cabin. Like with all of Epp's characters, she is the centre of attention. Part of a series of new paintings which explore the nostalgia of travel, Epp draws the viewer into a moment of reminiscence through his depiction of an early 2000s pop icon. A yearning for an earlier sense of freedom that included new places, unique experiences and Britney.