

Catfight

2019

Oil and acrylic on canvas

210cm x 160cm

Two comic-style kitties are caught in the middle of a catfight. Just back from the vet, their plastic cone collars act as protective armour from each other's claws. Paws outstretched, a black cat has fallen on its back, losing the fight. Depicted in Epp's signature clean lines and flat surfaces, the only discernible features on the black cat's face are a handful of whiskers and a pair of intense, almond yellow eyes, which give the feline a violent and sharp stare. On its furry white opponent, Epp has painted a pink cat mouth in painstaking realism. Its fangs are visible, tongue wet; ready to attack. The pink bow attached to the side of the white cat's collar emphasises the comical edge of the painting; they are as cute and clumsy as they are fierce and feral. The cats are fighting on stage, against a luxurious, black satin curtain backdrop. The stage lighting creates a radiant, dappled effect on the floor. The theatrical setting for this catfight, instead of an alleyway, reinforces the ridiculousness of the image, reminding the viewer of the YouTube videos they have watched on repeat, of an aloof kitty interrupting a high end fashion show, meowing and tail waving in tow.