

## *Choking Hazard*

2019

Oil and acrylic on canvas

150cm x 180cm

In *Choking Hazard*, the figure strangles himself with a set of Apple headphones. The bag they came in, also wraps around the figure's head, asphyxiating him and tied neatly in a bow at the base of his neck. The classic design of Apple's lightning jack and volume control looks like the embellishments of an necklace. The body of the character morphs into an amoeba cell-esque form, snaking its way around the black surface of the canvas. The figure's noodle arm pulls at the rope-fashioned headphones in such a pitiful manner, that the viewer can only guess that this isn't the first attempt and he is exhausted from trying. The Apple logo looms over the character's face proudly, as if branding a new hybrid AI product. When in reality, behind the bag, this is another lonely consumer, who has fallen prey to the information overload and app addicted era of the global tech industry. There is no more consumer paraphernalia left for him to buy or upgrade to help him survive the Digital Age. Instead, he must come to face his anxious, isolated, neuroses-riddle state. Inevitably leading to a smartphone triggered suicide.