

## *Contagious*

2019

Oil and acrylic on canvas

150cm x 155cm

A slumped, shy looking figure sticks a pizza saver to his left wrist with scotch tape. He is covered in them, like tiny white porcupine quills, they form a protective barrier between the figure's skin and the outside world. A pizza saver is an object used to prevent the top of a food container, such as a pizza box or cake box, from collapsing in at the centre and contaminating the food inside. In this painting, a neurotic and apprehensive character uses them as a shield, pathetically attempting to attach them to his skin with flimsy tape, which he has strips of, already cut and prepared. There is a sense of sadness and defeat that emanates from the figure. He is alone in total darkness, his surroundings unknown like he is faceless and anonymous. The richness of his pink skin and the curve of his bloated belly are the only physical elements which manage to bring him back into a state of realness, of being human. Yet, the only thing offering this person a sense of comfort is an inanimate tape dispenser, an object which crudely symbolises repair and healing.