

Copycat

2019

Oil and acrylic on canvas

125cm x 155cm

Two dubious looking characters have snuck videocameras into the cinema. The viewer can only speculate what new blockbuster film they are illegally recording this time. Before the film has even reach the final credits, they will be gone, off to download their unlicensed video files onto the vast network of the dark web. They are both identically dressed in all black, to avoid drawing attention to themselves and cardboard 3D glasses cover their eyes. The familiar burgundy red of movie theatre seats envelops the lower half of the painting, whilst above, the blue glare of the film recording shines behind the figures' heads. Parallels are made between the act of illegally copying films and the controversy of stealing another artist's work. It could be argued that *Copycat* is a direct analogy of the shady ongoing of the art world, where artists copy, steal, use and recreate original artwork. The grey area surrounding copyright and authorship in the art world is further muddied by the evolution of the internet, where images of art circulate through a network of online channels, which slowly strip the work of their original ownership and context.