

En Route

2021

Acrylic and oil on canvas

180 cm x 200 cm

Epp's immense depiction of a plane crash acts as the summarising image for his *Souvenir* show. The ultimate nightmare, it puts a darker twist on the lighter paintings exhibited in the show. Epp, who has a fascination with Wikileaks, found himself trawling through images and videos of plane crash and disaster footage. Combined with the fact that his older brother is a trained pilot, the symbol of a plane crash as lingered in the artist's mind for some time. The curved shaped of the plane's nose mimics the round, globular shape of Epp's figures' heads and its streamlined body already gives the plane, as an object, a dynamic and powerful quality. The billowing smoke and roaring fire are inspired by a table Epp saw at a design fair by Studio Jobs. The smoke clouds have a bulbous, heavy quality, reflective of an atomic structure, the clouds feel fixed to one another; thick and viscose in consistency. The image is absent of any humans. By doing this, Epp attempts to terrorise the symbol of a plane crash rather than interrogate the experience of it. The title, *En Route*, meaning 'on the way', offers an ambiguity that sits in contrast to the stark directness of the image. *En Route* questions where the world is heading and through the artist's eyes, it appears to be travelling to a dark place.