

Germaphobe

2019

Oil and acrylic on canvas

200cm x 175cm

A bulbous, L-shaped figure sticks his head and limbs through glossy, high tech dryers that equally look like steel-coloured torture contraptions. Balancing on the tip of his big toe, the kneeling figure appears terrified of touching the contaminated surface of what could be a public toilet. Yet, at the same time, the shape of the figure resembles that of a hurdling athlete in action, racing to the exit door of the bathroom. The intense, blue background reinforces the notion of being an open public space, disinfected and accessible. The recognisable shape of a Dyson hand dryer sits to the right of the painting, the figure's hand stuck eagerly into its vacuum, appeased by the blow of recycled air drying his freshly washed skin. As the title states, this figure is a germaphobe, obsessed with cleanliness and enduring a daily battle with his neurosis, he quite literally, jumps through hoops in order to satiate his phobia. This painting is from a series of work which looks at humanity's relationship to technology and consumption, specifically, everyday life experiences which are riddled with neurosis, obsession and hysteria.