

## *Grape Vape*

2019

Oil and acrylic on canvas

160cm x 225cm

Wearing a black Nike cap, the central figure sucks on a grape flavoured vape. In the left of the foreground, the cropped face of another humanoid figure also smokes a vape pen. A blue hue of synthetic smoke envelops the tip of each vape, blurring into the hazy, luminous purple background that glows with a Flavin-like intensity. The vape pens float, isolated in space, as lonely as the faceless characters which relentlessly suck on them. The figure seems to be casually sitting under the pink glow of club or bar lights. In the upper righthand corner of the painting, part of a green exit sign appears. These figures are maybe next to a fire escape, hidden away from the hustle and bustle of nightlife which surrounds them. Nor do they interact with one another, they simply pass by, unengaged and forlorn, further emphasising the social autism which is rampant among a younger demographic known as 'the loneliest generation'. This figure, in particular, is an icon of the millennial generation, who can transform even an e-cigarette - a simple technology used as an alternative to smoking - into a popular, subculture trend.