

Pawn

2017

Oil, acrylic and spray paint on canvas

100cm x 90cm

A figure wearing an all black, leather gimp mask is bombarded with an array of fetish devices: a feather, a banana, a pair of pink fluffy handcuffs. The zip of the gimp mask creates a horizontal scar down the figure's throat. Unable to unzip it and escape, as he is chained to wall just out of view. The red rubber orifice hole of his gimp mask makes the figure appear to be simultaneously screaming and pouting for more. Subtle flashes of spray painted red bleed into a dark, ominous background, which creates an atmosphere reminiscent of some kind of sex dungeon or bondage arena. A pawn is a person who is being used or manipulated by others for their own purposes. It is the chess piece with the lowest value to the player. It is the weakest piece and the first to be put in the firing line of the game. In this painting, the pawn is the figure being used in a BDSM game. He is a puppet, being tickled and whipped by his dominant who remains unseen. Pawn is almost a homophone of porn. Perhaps in this painting, the viewer is not witnessing a live sex game, but instead, the deleted online history of someone's secret fetish porn.