

Pride

2017

Oil, acrylic and spray paint on canvas

120cm x 120cm

This painting is about gay shame at Pride. As described by the artist, *Pride* examines the personal distress caused by the consciousness of being "wrong" or different. The figure in the painting has found the courage to show up to the march. Doing his best to support the cause, he waves the rainbow flag above his head and holds a sparkler in the other hand, willingly partaking in the march for his queer community. However, the figure is wearing a balaclava, hiding his identity. The painting deals with the contrasting actions of wanting to show up to the parade, but not wanting to be recognised or outed. *Pride* focuses on the complexities of coming to terms with being gay. A journey, which is muddled with opposing actions of celebration and disguise. A self discovery, which means finding one's place in a new community but also wanting to remain anonymous, out of fear of the outsider who will recognise them. A lot of Epp's work deals with these ironies and conflicting and co-habiting experiences. Not every emotion or identity is black or white, as the artist himself knows first hand.