

The Minister

2019

Oil and acrylic on canvas

155cm x 175cm

The Minister, was made in direct response to a curious encounter Epp had at a Scientology Church in Copenhagen. In this painting, a blue religious figure stands proudly beneath a Scientology sign which glows in white, reminiscent of the iconic Hollywood landmark sign, which overlooks Los Angeles. The text also reads like the end credits of an early science fiction film, where they roll, angled, off the top of the screen into space. In one hand, the minister holds a crucifix made from diamonds and in the other, a megaphone, which she holds to her mouth, as if in the middle of making an important announcement to her following. Her only accessories: a single, floating pearl earring and the unblemished white band of her dog collar. The light from the Scientology sign creates a bannered chiaroscuro effect across the all-blue painting, dramatising the holy scene. The direct reference to Scientology, a movement tarnished with rumours of being both a cult and a commercial enterprise, Epp makes a commentary on the ways in which fact and fiction intertwine into our memory, beliefs and faith. He presents a figure layered in symbols of sacred purity and morality, yet like many of Epp's characters, a poisonous air festers beneath.