



Ray Tsang (born 1979)

The Parasite, 2004

Oil on gesso on canvas
163 x 155 cm

Ray Tsang was the recipient of the 2004 UCC Purchase Prize, awarded at the Crawford College of Art and Design annual degree show. While in his final year in college Tsang painted mainly from photographs, many of which he digitally manipulated. This led him to achieve particular images from which he would make oil paintings such as *The Parasite*. In this case Tsang altered the palette of the work, so that at a first glance it appears to be a blue monochromatic image. In fact the palette adheres to the analogous colour scheme, incorporating subtle nuances of green and purple to enrich the scheme.

Tsang was drawn to the medium of photography as a basis for his work with the aim of capturing a moment in time. In *The Parasite*, one second earlier and the seated figure would have been obscured from view by the passing shopper, one second later and he would have been the sole focus of the work. Instead however, the artist seems to draw our attention to the marginalised position of the seated

man in this consumerist world. Tsang describes his work as a social commentary. In *The Parasite* the camera angle has been lowered to enable us to catch a glimpse of the man through the passing shoppers. The blurring of the shopper suggests both a sense of movement and the hustle and bustle of the consumer's world, with the man's static position again emphasising his outsider status.

Tsang is now working in the medium of digital painting, using traditional painting techniques and digital tools to create paintings directly on the computer.

Text written by Nora Hickey following an interview with the artist.

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