

Artist

**JUDE RAE**



SL385, 2018,  
Oil on Linen, 122.2 x 137.2 cm

### Information from Jude Rae

*Something drives me to return time and again to the genre of still life. This often small, quiet category of painting has informed all my work from portraits to larger interiors as well as etching and video. The least rhetorical of the observation based modes, it can have a wordless eloquence that takes one back to the very condition of painting. Traditionally loaded up with **allegory** and religious symbolism, the trappings of status or domesticity, I prefer its other inclinations: to detail, to the overlooked, even the abject. Unlike other genres which lend themselves to expression and narrative, still life is a strange and largely mute mixture of the analytical and the sensual.*  
(from *In Plain Sight*, Jude Rae 2017)

### Studying

- Still-life paintings often depict objects with a hidden meaning, symbolism or **allegory**. For example, the passing of time can be alluded to symbolically with flowers, books and clocks. How do you think Jude Rae's use of fire extinguishers and gas bottles fits into this tradition? Can they be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning for our time?
- Research Italian artist Giorgio Morandi who has influenced Jude Rae's approach to still life painting. <https://www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/collection/works/431.1997/>

### Making

Create a still life that responds to our time. Use the key features of a still-life, such as a table, vessels for drinking, instruments for eating, and objects for consumption or decoration. Capture your still life arrangements with a digital camera or make a painting in your preferred media. Consider composition, colour and lighting.