



DRIZZLE

the stars~~~~~drizzle~~~~~
~~~~~  
~~~~~their laminar~~~~~syrup  
in~~~~slow~~~~~undulating~~~~~coils~~~~~
~~~~~of~~~~~  
~~~~~luminous~~~~~  
~~~~~coagulation~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~unspooling~~~~~like a~~~~~taut~~~~~  
peppermint~~~~~  
~~~~~lasso~~~~~  
~~~~~or a latex~~~~~spiral~~~~~staircase  
~~~~~unspiralling itself~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~with~~~~~molten~~~~~audacity  
~~~~~  
~~~~~a single~~~~~  
unbroken~~~~~stream~~~~~of
~~~~~semi-fluid~~~~~  
~~~~~substantially dilute~~~~~  
~~~~~liquid~~~~~opulence~~~~~

Emily Hartley-Skudder  
*Rinse & Repeat*  
23 Nov – 20 Dec 2023  
Jhana Millers Gallery  
jhanamillers.com

Text by Hera Lindsay Bird

Painting by Emily Hartley-Skudder, *Drizzle*, 2023. Oil on linen, acrylic and silica on wood. 31 x 26 cm



## **WEEP**

Tears  
Drips  
Like  
Mice  
In  
Glass  
High  
Heels  
Down  
A  
Pink  
Porcelain  
Staircase  
And  
Whip  
The  
Sink  
With  
Their  
Hot  
Crystal  
Reprimands

Emily Hartley-Skudder  
*Rinse & Repeat*  
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Text by Hera Lindsay Bird  
Painting by Emily Hartley-Skudder, Gush, 2023. Oil on linen, acrylic and silica on wood. 31 x 26 cm



## **OOZE**

Microbeads throb  
in the luxuriant, primordial brine  
of the personal hygiene aisle

Here in the shallows  
I am growing tetrapodic  
I am eschewing gill-based respiration!

Every day  
my lungs are growing stronger.  
Every day, I am getting closer  
and closer to land.

Emily Hartley-Skudder

*Rinse & Repeat*

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Painting by Emily Hartley-Skudder, *Ooze*, 2023. Oil on linen, acrylic and silica on wood. 31 x 26 cm



## GUSH

Get in losers!

This pontoon isn't going to sink itself.

I have a huge, aquamarine boredom

So grab an oar and start paddling!

We're entering our Orinoco-flow era

We're white-water rafting down the River Styx

We're subscribing to Poseidon's substack

We're getting Odyssey-pilled

Wind down the window of your submersible,  
sweetheart

20 thousand leagues under the  
whatever

I am playing your leitmotif

on an underwater piano

I am wearing a 100% authentic pearl necklace

Emily Hartley-Skudder

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## **MELT**

You cursed brat!  
Look at what you've done.  
"I am melting, I am melting"  
.....etc

I sit in the bath  
with my stunted clawfoot heart  
frowning at the ceiling  
& the mirror begins to sweat

Can't you turn the heat down a little?  
My heart's already in puddles  
Like a prehistoric, disease-ridden iceberg  
releasing airborne pathogens

Kindly prise this house off my legs  
I've got some cursing to do.

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## **POOL**

Ugh! I'm sick of this life  
I'm just going to put on this suit of armour  
and lie face down on the bottom of your  
swimming pool

Uhoh!  
My eyes have sprung a leak!  
Tell me, whose hair is that in your plughole?

Don't mind me  
I am like a viper in a gilded cage, etc  
I'm just going to empty this entire pitcher of  
pomegranate juice  
all over your pristine bathroom floor

Emily Hartley-Skudder

*Rinse & Repeat*

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## SCRUB

Let's put our gloves on and have a little fun  
I've got a knack for getting what I want  
It's amazing what you can accomplish, with  
a little soap and water  
So get on your knees, and scrub

I've got a taste for the finer things in life  
I want this toilet so clean  
I could fill it with champagne  
and flush your head down it.

I can tell you're the type who likes to live  
dangerously  
You sure know your way around a mop  
But you're not the only one with a trick up  
your sleeve

Emily Hartley-Skudder

*Rinse & Repeat*

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## **ATOMISE**

I'm not as naive as I look  
I've got a huge, marine entitlement  
I'm crusted with rhinestones  
like dewdrops, on a winter cabbage

Watch out!

Here I come  
ascending from my clamshell  
in a veil of sea foam  
wearing a kelp feather boa  
with murder in my eyes

Watch out!

My hand is rising out of your toilet  
wielding an ancient and mythical sword!

Emily Hartley-Skudder

*Rinse & Repeat*

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## **SLOSH**

Pour me another drink sweetheart  
All this crying is making me thirsty  
Can you handle a woman with a plan?  
I've got enough money in the bank to buy  
this whole damn seaworld!

Top up my glass....  
just a little higher....  
You're not the only one with a hidden  
agenda!

I'm not crying, i'm allergic to destiny  
O let's raise a glass to fate  
"Of all the specialist aquarium outlets  
in all the towns, in all the world, you had to  
walk into mine."

Emily Hartley-Skudder

*Rinse & Repeat*

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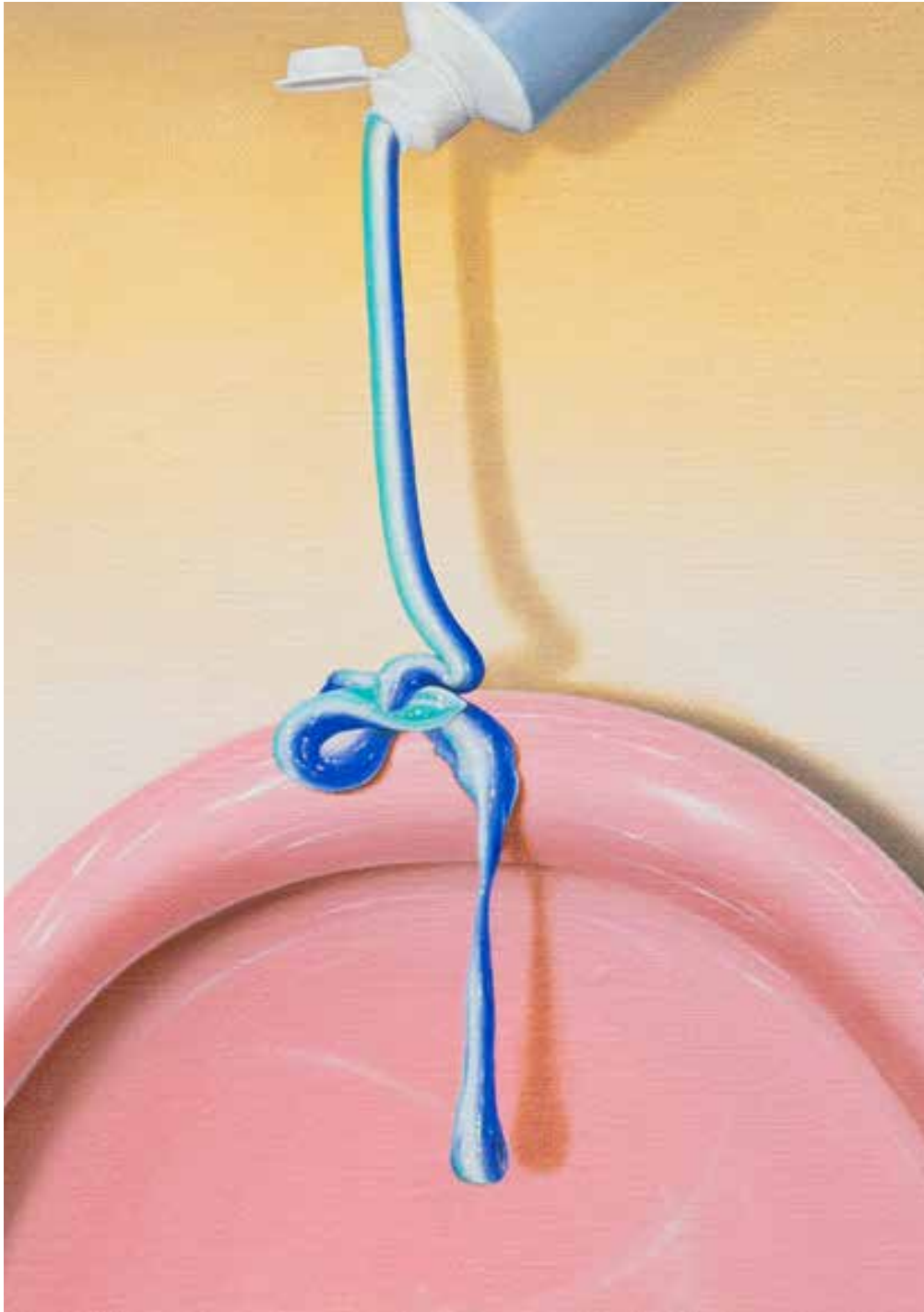


## **SPURT**

The waterfalls are wet...  
and the oceans are wet....  
all the fish in all oceans of all the world are  
wet  
things are wet, and they're only getting  
wetter...  
the roses, throbbing with dewdrops  
the taps puckered tight, like a silver orifice  
  
Is that a water pistol in your pocket, or are  
you just happy to see me?  
Baby, I can see your divining rod twitching.  
Baby,  
Let me play my trumpet  
into your tropical, saltwater aquarium

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## **EXUDE**

Hey! Can't you see what I'm exuding here?  
It's an old fashioned, peppermint charm  
A cool silver wind  
blowing down the interstate  
Baby, I was born to be adored  
I am unconsciously mimicking your body  
language  
I am maintaining unsubtle and deliberate  
eye contact  
I am showing you my teeth

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**PURIFY**

i want to be.....marinated.....  
 .....in a jacuzzi.....  
 .....of tripple strength.....  
 .....pine-blast holy water.....  
 .....my microbes.....  
 .....shucked.....like barnacles.....  
 .....from the black hull.....  
 .....of the titanic...  
 .....i want to be.....lathed....  
 .....and exfoliated.....  
 .....then dunked!.....  
 ...in a baptismal font of.....  
 .....hospital-grade.....  
 .....anti-microbial.....mouthwash.....  
 .....then laid.....  
 .....naked and throbbing.....  
 .....on the cool...aseptic....  
 .....tiles.....of your regard.....

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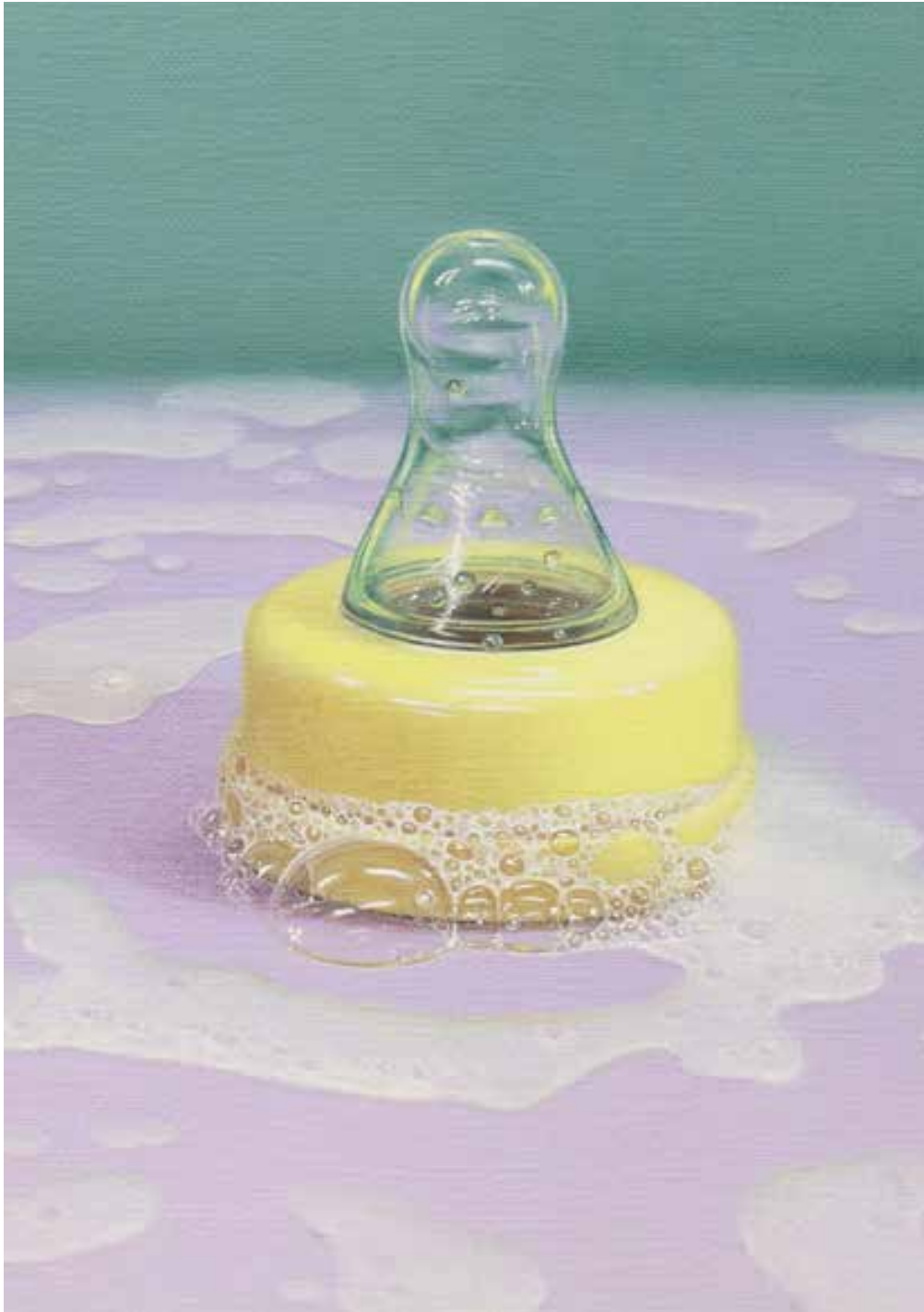


## HYDRATE

.....I want to lie.....  
.....in the suffocating heat  
....of the midnight desert..... parched  
and..... gasping.....  
...the wind..... getting hotter..... and hotter  
..... until the stars  
..... begin to dessicate..... and flap.....  
....in their sockets.....  
.....i want to lie.....  
in your unrelenting..... solar glare..... until I  
am pink & sizzling..... like a crashed corvette...  
..... then shucked!.....  
..... from my wetsuit..... like a soft shell crab  
..... and thrown....  
..... into the..... electrolyte-rich... broth.....  
..... of the community swimming pool  
..to rise!..... bedazzled..... and gasping.....  
..... from the fresh indignity.....  
...of your wet agenda.....

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## **FROTH**

Sorry, I can't come to the phone right now  
I'm busy  
shampooing my miniature poodle!

I regret to inform you  
I cannot attend your son's baptism  
Don't you know I always wash my hair on  
Tuesdays???

Thanks for the kind invitation  
I can't make it to your funeral  
I'm up to my thighs in suds  
lathering my pet tractor

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