Phu

mixed media on panel

12 x 12 cm 2020

Phu is a Phooka in learning. Phooka's are ghosts or other discarnate spirits in disguise. Phu has taken on the shape of a white furry bat. Phu is learning to be a friendly mimic who, with permission, utilizes other creatures' bodies and take them for a ride of a lifetime. To be clear, it's the soul that's been taken on a journey, not the physical body itself. So no harm done, guaranteed fun for all parties involved.

Usually, it happens at nighttime, preferably when the lucky subject is asleep. In this case, Phu takes his buddy Timpi on a ride, who is in hibernation and always in for a fun experiment anyway, so it's all good. Once fully trained, Phu will take Timpi on great adventures. He will hurry with him over precipices, carry him up into the moon, and down to the bottom of the sea. He's not quite there yet, at this point he's happy he's managed to actually turn into something of a bat.

PHU is a storyteller. He will draw the curtain on a compelling opening scene and together you will embark upon a

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wondrous journey. The only boundaries will be the perimeters of your combined imagination. You just sit back, relax and enjoy the ride.

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Chris Berens

Chris Berens studied illustration at the Academy of Art & Design in 's-Hertogenbosch, graduating in 1999. He has developed a complex and time-consuming painting technique, mostly shown as mixed media on panel.

"I'm most comfortable using fine brushes and drawing inks and graphites, but I also regularly use water color paints, markers and acrylics", Berens says. "For some time now I've added digital image making to my line of techniques, meaning 3D sculpting, digital painting and image processing. I combine and mix them with my more traditional media."

After his first major solo show at Jaski Gallery in 2005, Chris Berens' fame spread quickly. The young artist has already exhibited all over the world, from Amsterdam to New York, from Tokyo to Los Angeles, Seattle and Singapore. He also designed the cover for Panic of Girls, an album which was released in 2011 by Blondie. Deborah Harry and Chris Stein, founders of the band, are admirers of his work.

Back home Chris has been the subject of a television documentary. Chris Berens, Master of his Magical Universe was made for Dutch broadcaster Avro's Close Up series in 2013 and has since been broadcast several times at home and abroad.

Chris Berens also featured prominently in the television documentary Krabbé searches for Van Gogh, in which actor/painter Jeroen Krabbé traced the path of Vincent van Gogh in co-operation with Dutch artists.

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