


Aoshima

mixed media on panel

18 x 13 cm 2020

Aoshima lives on an island in the Ehime Prefecture, which is mostly known for its very large feline resident. Aoshima was known to have outgrown local humans by ratio of 10:1.

But as both tourists and residents kept bringing her treats and offerings, in the last known poll the ratio had greatly increased to almost 36:1, until she had the exact measurements of the island itself, and the last human fled to the mainland, leaving her to be the sole resident and namesake of the island. Now her best friends are fish, coral and the occasional seagull. She's one big, happy feline.

AOSHIMA still can feel lonely sometimes, too. Whenever she's in need of human companionship, she visualizes her deepest wish, and a new friend presents itself from an unexpected angle. And there you are. You are everything she could hope for and she hopes the feeling is mutual.



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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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