

Willem & Gerrit

mixed media on panel

12 x 12 cm 2020

Willem was a well-respected Polar bear in his day, but also, a bit of a scoundrel. One fine day, when he was hanging with his buddy and accomplice Gerrit “the Feather”, they saw a group of humans trying to get to the Far East by dragging their ship through the rough ice patches of the North Pole and set up camp in a poorly constructed cabin.

They watched them muddle for a bit before Willem decided to play a joke on them and scared them off, using his scariest voice. They both had a big laugh about it later and Willem wrote about it in his journal inside the cabin, which they decided to keep as a clubhouse.

WILLEM & GERRIT are your buddies. They’re there for you, they have your back. They might play a joke on you but it’s all good fun and they’re good enough sports to take a punch as well as dish them out.

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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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