

Plinius the Elder
mixed media on paper
12 x 12 cm 2020

Plinius looks a bit grumpy but is intensely misunderstood while he is in fact a gentlest of creatures.

His twin Nigidius wrote about him in the first century of the Common Era: “I do not like Plinius. No one does. Plinius is thought to be a very bad omen, being as it is a funereal bird. Besides that, he lives in deserts and in terrifying, empty and inaccessible places. Its cry is a scream. If it is seen in a city, or during the day, it is a direful portent, though several cases are known of Plinius perching on private houses without fatal consequences.” This is of course a textbook example of the strategy of an evil, envious twin and is not taken seriously whatsoever.

Plinius has an allience with Accipiter the hawk, another misunderstood creature with a pungent scream, who came to his aid after this defamation. Plinius is not fond of the island of Crete. He went there once but was very soon to leave.

PLINIUS is an introvert. He is a very melancholic being. He deeply empathizes with the grieving, the heartbroken and

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the sad and enjoys the silence of solitude. He prefers the night-time and rarely seeks out crowded places. He keeps you company in your darkest hours. He will not ask what's wrong, he will not tell you what you should or shouldn't do. He will just be there, sitting calmly and silently by your side.

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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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