

JASKI GALLERY

AMSTERDAM



Max

mixed media on panel

18 x 13 cm 2020

MAX has the ability to change his surroundings with his mind. He does it to escape, to hide, or to dream and visit magical places. He used to be angry and blunt. He would often travel to eerie worlds inhabited by hideous beasts who he would fight and oppress.

Now Max is almost all grown up. Overall, he has calmed down and he has learned to love and respect his subordinates and now they are the best of friends. Together they have a lot of fun.

MAX is the wild thing living within you. All in all, he's a benevolent creature. He needs his space and eventually he will calm down. Nonetheless, it is quite crucial to occasionally throw in a full moon for him to howl at, as he needs to rampage and blow out his flagrant fumes.

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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.