Jack

mixed media on panel

18 x 13 cm 2020

Throughout many cultures cats are considered to be mystical creatures whose eyes are windows peering in from other worlds. In the case of Jack, this is actually true. Jack, the Norwegian Forest Cat is a fairy or a goblin in disguise. Sometimes he's a fairy, sometimes a goblin, sometimes a troll, and sometimes he's a creature we wouldn't even remotely have a word for.

If you stare deeply into his eyes you can see visions of the worlds of the creatures that are watching us through those peering eyes.

JACK is a cat. Only his cat shaped vessel is from this world. What goes on on the inside is definitely not. He sees things you don't see. He looks at you from another dimension. He analyzes and balances you with a supernatural yardstick. And however peculiar or abstract his findings, tomorrow his judgement might be utterly, unexpectedly insightful, confronting or equally confusing.

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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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