

Dirk & Duyfken

mixed media on panel

18 x 13 cm 2020

The love story of DIRK and his DUYFKEN.

Dirk and Duyfken have had quite the adventure. They both thought they were the only one of their kind. One night, both Dirk and Duyfken had the same dream. A vision of another. One of the same species as themselves, out there in an unknown part of the world. After that night, they both went looking for their other half. Dirk set sail for the open sea and set foot on a newfound land. There he left a message for his illusive little dove to find and along with instructions how to find him and took off again.

Much later, Duyfken found Dirk's plate, all covered in sand and dirt and sailed off in his direction, but not before writing a note on the same plate. Years later, Dirk passed the same island and saw Duyfken's inscription. He left her another note and left to find her. And so it went on and on. When they were old and weary, they finally met and shared their identical stories. They were lovers with only each other on their minds, traveling identical paths, without ever

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meeting. Now, finally, they were whole, and they were home.

DIRK & DUYFKEN are a brave old couple. They have both seen a lot and have had some wonderful adventures. Their story is one of hope and despair, of love and loss, but with a warm and fuzzy end and no regrets. They remind us to never despair, you will meet your soulmate, in this life or the next. Which is all the same in the end anyway.

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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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