

Desiree

mixed media on panel

18 x 13 cm 2020

A magical white owl called Desirée, who despised the light, foretold a childless queen that she would soon have a daughter, told her to name the little girl Desirée and to invite the owl to her 1st birthday. In return, all the world would remain dark, as the owl loved the dark. He failed to mention the enchantment would last only as long as the dark.

On her first birthday, the little girl Desirée, who had never seen the light, wished for a magic, luminous dandelion to appear and for her to blow all the radiant fluff into the world so that she could finally see the world. Her wish was granted, she blew out the fluff into the world, and she transformed back into the owl's long-time companion, a magical white doe.

DESIRÉE is the gentlest of creatures. She loves the dark but also enjoys spreading light and joy. She embraces your dark side just as much as the light within you.

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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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