

JASKI GALLERY

AMSTERDAM



Rudyard

mixed media on panel

26 x 18 cm 2022

Rudyard, Kip or Rudy to his friends, even though his would insist on calling him Joseph. Rudyard is a night panther (melanistic Indian leopard) who serves as friend, protector and mentor to what he lovingly refers to as his “human-cubs”.

He has been offered knighthood several times but has graciously declined. Here he is seen, mere moments before receiving a versatile and luminous narrative gift.

He sits his man-cubs down, scattered around him and begins his story; “Born in captivity in the menagerie of the Raja, I patiently begins to plan for my freedom.

Once I was mature and strong enough, I broke the lock on my cage and escaped into the jungle, where my ferocity and cunning nature won me the respect of all its other inhabitants, except for that no good of a tiger.

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None but you, my dear cubs, ever learned that I once wore a collar and chain," explaining Rudyard's special insight concerning man-cubs. Because he had learned the ways of men, he is also more loving to the abandoned human children who came to be under his care and protection.

When his story is over, before Ruyard sends his man-cubs out into the jungle again, they sing the "Outsong". As his man-cubs run off Ruyard calls out, "Remember, Rudyard loves thee... Remember, Rudyard loves thee."

RUDYARD is your friend, mentor and protector. He knows what you have been through and looks after you. Having gone through the same stuff you have, he is especially observant of signs of loneliness, and old sorrow.

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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.