

JASKI GALLERY

AMSTERDAM



Brunhild

mixed media on paper

26 x 18 cm 2022

Brunhild is a shieldmaiden, a female warrior. For some reason, she is sometimes lovingly referred to as a valkyrie.

She will meet you mid-battle when things are going South and ask what you need. It's not like you can ask for anything though. She has two options really. Well, three. First, you can keep going and she'll go about her business. But that one doesn't really count, as it's not much of an option, given her timing and the size of the pile of crap you're in.

So two options. There she suddenly is. She can guide you to the left, where there's this great big sunny meadow, you're welcome to use. Just take a load off, lie in the grass, eat a buttercup, drink from a shepherd's purse, that sort of thing.

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The other option will take you to this majestic, enormous hall. Inside the hall with a gold ceiling Brunhild has been slaving away all day to make this magnificent feast. Just for you. And a couple of other guys who look like they too can use a refreshment.

She looks like the main character in a saga or a poem. She is a powerful Amazon-like queen. Once you see her, you immediately know it's her. Just remember, she's on your side and both options are fine. It doesn't matter which path you take, just take her hand and leave the mud pool.

BRUNHILD picks you up when you're down. She offers you a way out. You will have to go the distance yourself, but she will give you the strength and the confidence to do so.

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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.