

Cis and Echo

mixed media on panel

26 x 18 cm 2022

This is the story of Echo and Cis. Once upon a time, a nymph and a river fell madly in love and after one year of love the nymph gave birth to the child they called Cis. As much as Cis was a result of their love, nymphs and rivers aren't known for their superior parenting skills, so Cis wandered the great earth alone. One day Cis was walking in the woods when Echo, an air nymph saw him, fell deeply in love, and followed him. Cis sensed he was being followed and shouted "Who's there?". Echo repeated "Who's there?" She eventually revealed her identity and attempted to hug him.

Cis backed away and told Echo to go and find love elsewhere, as he felt he was to blame for his parents leaving him. Echo came closer and gently ushered Cis toward a brook, where Cis leaned over the water and saw himself, radiant and in the bloom of youth. Both Cis and Echo stared at Cis' breathtaking reflection for what seemed like hours. Their gaze met in the depth of the brook, they smiled, which soon broke out in uncontrollable laughter. Right then and there they decided they had all they would ever need. They vowed to stay together always, to make this place their

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home and garden and that is where they will remain.

CIS AND ECHO see your beauty. It shines from within you, it defines your appearance, and it even rubs off on your surroundings. There is a person out there who sees you, in all your glory and your grace. You will find each other. You may be closer than you think.

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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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