

JASKI GALLERY

AMSTERDAM



Aarne Thompson Uther (Atu)

mixed media on panel

26 x 18 cm 2022

Atu, the barking white lion, lives in the backyard of a man with three daughters. He has remained unseen successfully for many a generation. Knowing his humans are afraid of dogs, he has taught himself to bark whenever one of them would come too close, and scare them off. One day, Atu hears the man tell his daughters he must leave on a journey and asking each of his daughters what they would like him to bring back. The oldest wants diamonds, the second pearls, and the youngest a singing, springing lark.

This makes Atu fall madly in love with the youngest daughter. The man, however, has not a clue what in God's green earth a lark is, but is afraid to tell his daughters that and risk being even more of a laughing stock than he already is. Without saying another word, the man leaves and Atu forgets about this event for a while. One day, the man returns with diamonds and pearls, but no lark, which makes Atu feel sad and sorry for the youngest daughter and love her even more. One night, as Atu enjoys being the king of his own kingdom, -the far back of the backyard of the man with his three daughters- he sees the man wandering about the garden, getting awfully

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close, mumbling "lark, lark what in heaven's name is a lark".

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Atu starts his barking, but instead of running, the man is startled, and looks Atu straight in the eyes and utters: Lion.. Bark.. Lark? LARK!, runs into the house and orders his servant to catch it. Instead of taking offence to this thread, threatening to kill them both for calling him a lark, the lion decides to pardon the man's ignorance and look upon the event as a sign of fate. He lets himself get caught and led to the youngest daughter. She, too, instantly decides to spare her father from yet another humiliation and graciously accept her 'lark'. In the end Atu moves into the house and the servant is given the task to build a large ornamental bird cage in the back of the backyard, go to the colonial flea market and buy a couple of 'Leeuwerikken' from a Dutch merchant.

ATU is passionate. He knows what he wants and he gets creative in finding ways to get it. He is considerate of other people's feelings and is willing to slightly adjust his course in order to spare the feelings of others.

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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.