

Julie and Gaston

mixed media on panel

26 x 18 cm 2022

Julie is an opera singer. Little is known for certain about her life; her tumultuous career and flamboyant lifestyle are the subject of gossip, rumor, and colourful stories, and have inspired numerous fictional and semi-fictional portrayals.

Julie is the daughter of Gaston, the Master of the Horse for the King. Her father trained the court pages, and so his daughter learned dancing, reading, drawing, and fencing alongside them.

The Opéra has hired Julie, having initially refused her. She debuted as the first marsupial opera singer some years ago. She performes regularly with the Opéra, initially singing as a soprano, and later in her more natural contralto range. The local Marquis wrote in his journal of a performance by Julie that hers was "the most beautiful voice in the world".

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When Julie learned that singers were addressed as "mademoiselle" whether or not they were married, she changed her stage name into La Marsupilalala.

JULIE is a diva without the appurtenant demeanor. She has payed her dues. She hasn't cut any corners. She is a self-made star, but knows where she came from and takes her exemplary function to the new generation very seriously.

GASTON is a proud father. He was ambitious in his day, but gladly steps aside for the new generation.

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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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