

Maria, Ignatius and Cornelia

mixed media on panel

26 x 18 cm 2022

Maria was born in Gouda, you know from the cheese. She married a prominent and prosperous brickmaker. He was a bit of a tool, she wanted to divorce him, he refused, but she received a considerable sum of money from him. Years later, Maria got into a rough patch when her land was flooded to prevent the Meanies' army crossing the Goodies' Water Line and then her son-in-law borrowed money by fraudulently using her name.

All in all, she's been through a lot, it's not all been pretty. She's known wealth and she's known poverty. She's been hot, she's been cold. She's been wet and she has been dry.

After all this time, in the autumn of her life, were you to ask her what's the single most important thing in the world? Her answer would be love. In her case, Ignatius and Cornelia. To love them and to have them love her back.

MARIA has been through a lot but has never let life's troubles take her down or affect the way she sees the world.

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Misfortunes and setbacks have made her wise, not cynical. Hard lessons have softened her judgement on herself and 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.

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