

JASKI GALLERY

AMSTERDAM



Sonney

mixed media on panel

26 x 18 cm 2022

Sonney is a benevolent, whimsical creature. According to the records in the Library of the Stars, Sonney is a sweet, playful creature. A little similar to an anteater, without the long nose and with arms longer than his body. He should be capable of bestowing great fortune on people and places that amuse him. Or to those who are fast enough to catch him as they would always find a silver coin in the bottom of their pocket or the in seam of your coat.

It is even considered a favorable omen just to have seen the "lucky piggy" as it is lovingly referred to. Supposedly, he's not the brightest of minds and regularly has to be fished out of a well or pond. On the other hand, it's very well possible that he just likes to sit in the water, blow some bubbles and wait around in the hope you'll pass by and are in the mood to play catch with him. Think fast, though, he might not look it, but he will give you a run for your money.

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Op al onze transacties zijn onze Algemeen Voorwaarden van toepassing, gedeponneerd ter griffie van de Arrondissementsrechtbank te Amsterdam op 30 november 1998 onder nummer 234 / 1998

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SONNEY is a transparent and straightforward. In his generosity, he likes to make other people feel good and will reward any positive behavior with a sincere smile.

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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.