

JASKI GALLERY

AMSTERDAM



Hanske

mixed media on panel

26 x 18 cm 2022

A rich lady named Hanske lived in a house with golden floors and silver walls. She possessed more ships than all the merchants in town combined and she got more and more rich by the day.

She summoned her best sailing master and she demanded him to bring her a ship full of grain, at that time the most valuable thing on earth.

“Do you not have enough already? You have silver and gold, why demand goods so perishable? Is it status you seek? Is it decadence?”, but the sailor abode her wish nonetheless.

After a long quest the sailing master returned with a boatload full of grain. The woman asked “on which side of your ship did you load the grain?” “Starboard” replied the boatsman. “Then toss it over at the portside.”

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

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Then began a period of intense heat and drought, the water slowly started to withdraw and was reduced to a large pond and the hills all around caught fire. The woman stood in the water while all the woodland creatures came running from the hills and gathered around her in the cool, fresh water. Where the grain was tossed overboard, a vast field of golden grain grew and there was enough food for all of the townspeople for the years to come.

HANSKE is compassionate and thinks ahead. Despite her own good fortune, she will not become blind for the frailty of balance and the vulnerability of life. She keeps sight of the larger picture and will always invest in the future even if that does not yield her any personal gain.

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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.