

Shelley and Mary

mixed media on panel

26 x 18 cm 2022

Mary is the daughter of a feminist and a philosopher. She is the mistress of a famous writer and poet, who on a regular basis organizes gatherings in which contemporary literary heavyweights congregate. Mary would sit in the corner as discrete observer. At age of 19, in the Year Without a Summer, Mary accompanied her lover and his important writer friends to stay with a befriended Lord. Cold and incessant rain confined them to the house for months on end. Mary, raised to act like a lady, withdrew herself from her distinguished superiors.

Sitting around a log fire in the Lord's villa, the elite company amused themselves with making up ghost stories, one even worse than the next. Her husband and his sophisticated friends laughed at the poor quality of their own stories and counted themselves lucky for not having a witness of any consequence. Mary, raised to think like a warrior, sat at the far end of the room, snuggled up to her soul companion Shelley for warmth and comfort and together and in silence, they cooked up the greatest story of all time.

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SHELLEY AND MARY have a good sense of self-value and will not let climate, spirit of the time or expectations dictate their self-image. They will not let others tell them what they can and cannot accomplish or be discouraged by other people's achievements.

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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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