

JASKI GALLERY

AMSTERDAM



Torngarsuk and Pyewacket

mixed media on panel

26 x 18 cm 2022

A thousand miles from anywhere, where it is so cold, that very cold is considered quite warm, Torngarsuk is a sky god, and one of the more important deities. He has many names, spoken in languages long gone with the icy winds. Translated in the common tongue, some of his names are The Ever Wandering One, Grandfather, Stepfather, White Sea Deer, Rider of Icebergs, God's Dog or the Old Man in the Fur Cloak. Torngarsuk is a mischievous spirit, worshiped by offering in the shape of a nice juicy fish. Or jewelry. He's a sucker for anything that shimmers.

Torngarsuk is the master of whales and seals and most powerful supernatural being in the colder parts of this world. He appears in the form of a bear. He is considered to be invisible to everyone but the fishermen.

As a grand spirit or demon Torngarsuk is invoked by fishermen when one needs the weather predicted, or when the ice is too thick to sail out and they're in need of a hole in the ice or a polynya. There is another spirit that is

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invisible to everyone but the fishermen, who teaches the fishermen how to see things from the sunny side. His name is Pyewacket, he is what they call a familiar spirit and he sees Torngarsuk as his benefactor and best bud.

Fishermen like to keep a familiar spirit like Pyewacket in a leather bottle which they evoke and consult like an oracle. Even though that is one of his skills, Pyewacket much rather hang with his awe-inspiring but mischievous spirit buddy.

TORNGARSUK AND PYEWACKET are a fun-loving gang. But they are loyal and will treat anyone who respects them with an equal amount of respect. They know the qualities people respect them for, and will indulge them without feeling used or exploited.

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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.