

JASKI GALLERY

AMSTERDAM



Ripley

mixed media on panel

26 x 18 cm 2022

One autumn day, the Dutch villager Ripley wanders from her village into an open field with her black mink Wolf to escape her husband's nagging. She hears her name called out and sees an egg lying in the field, making thunderous noises. She decides to open up the egg and discovers the source the noise: a group of ornately dressed and bearded men who are playing nine-pins.

She asks who they are and learns that the men are the ghosts of the crew of the Halve Maen. She joins the men in their game and drinks some of their liquor and falls fast asleep. When she wakes up next to the egg that now produces a soft humming, she notices she is wearing antiquated Dutch clothing and Wolf has turned silvery white. She picks up the egg and starts to walk back to the village. Getting closer, she notices it has been reduced to a handful of wooden structures around a brick tower. Once she has reached the village, a couple of barefoot children runs up to her and ask her who she is.

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She looks at Wolf and states: I am Chronos, I was engendered by earth and water, this is my companion Chaos, and this, is an egg. The egg started to roar, and Ripley howled: "hush, for the egg will produce the hermaphroditic god Phanes who will give birth to the first generation of gods and will be the ultimate creator of the cosmos." The children laughed, Ripley smiled, and she taught them how to play nine-pins.

RIPLEY does not take life too seriously. Or herself, for that matter. She will just as soon put her belief system overboard, when new light is shed on life or a particular situation. If she is to receive new insights, she is not afraid to change her ways, her game or her name.

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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.