

Entgen

mixed media on panel

26 x 18 cm 2022

Entgen is an Independent woman. She can take care of herself and she doesn't need people to tell her what to think, feel or believe.

In the era of the Seven Netherlands, a witch trial was conducted in the summer months of 1674. The accused was Entgen. She was arrested on charges of "Hexerei oder quaede Zauberei" (Witchcraft or malicious Wizardry). She was held captive in the dungeon of the local castle.

A request to the court was put in writing to hear on 31, often rather curious, points and the prosecutor demanded that the accused be forced to confess. Brave and strong as she was Entgen did no such thing, but it didn't matter.

Near the end when time and space started to dissolve, she looked at the darkening sky, acknowledged the imminent signs of the storm approaching and called her dear owl friend Susan for consultation and guidance. She turned to

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warn her fellow villagers for the impending storm and advise them to seek shelter, who, in turn, ran off screaming “Hex! Hex!”.

Entgen and Susan looked at each other and smiled. Then together they wandered into the open field to watch the dark clouds accumulate and feel the wind brush their cheeks. Sensing the gentle scent of white jasmin, she patiently awaited the rain.

ENTGEN knows. She knows the soul of the water and the earth, the air and the fire. And of the spirit itself. She does not fear the night as in her darkest hour, the moon and stars talk to her, comfort her and sing their song of wisdom, welcoming her home. They know she knows. They have been telling her so her whole life. And that is enough for her.

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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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