

Astraea

mixed media on panel

19 x 13 cm 2022

ASTRAEA, meaning "star-maiden" or "starry night",is the daughter of Astraeus and Eos, ancestors of the Cervinae, the Old World Deer.

Astaea is the maiden goddess of justice, innocence, purity and precision. She was the last of the immortals to live with humans during the Golden Age, the first of the Ages of Man.

In the present and ongoing Iron Age, the last of the Ages of Man, the world is extravagantly out of control. People covet gold and despotism, family and friends fall out and come to face each other. Astraea abandoned the earth in the beginning of the Iron Age. Fleeing from the new wickedness of humanity, she ascended to the heavens to become the constellation Virgo. Although some say that the fifth and last of the deteriorating Ages of Man was ushered in by the evacuation of Astaea.

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According to myth, Astraea will one day come back to Earth, bringing with her the return of the magnificent Golden Age.

ASTRAEA is innocent. She is pure, just and precise. She has no agenda. Let alone a second or a third. When something feels good, it's good, when it doesn't, it's not. She doesn't pass judgement of value, but she does value her own judgement.

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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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