

Pixie

mixed media on panel

19 x 13 cm 2022

PIXIE loves a good fairy ring. He is something of a fairy ring chaser. He just can't get enough. Some might even call him a fairy ring nut, but that's really not fair. You see, fairy rings are actually rather interesting phenomena and Pixie has found out quite a bit about them. For example, in England fairy rings are caused by fairies or elves dancing in a circle. When humans join in the dance they will be punished by the fairies, and made to dance in the ring until they passed out from exhaustion. Pixie is not human.

In Germany, fairy rings are actually known as witches' rings. They are the place where witches dance on Walpurgis Night, a spring celebration taking place exactly six months before Halloween. Pixie can't wait. He's already bought his ticket to Germany.

And in Austria, dragons are to blame for the appearance of fairy rings. They burn them into the forest floor with their fiery tails.

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But that's not all Pixie's found out. In some countries they are portals to another world, in others the mushrooms are simply used as dinner tables for fairies. Sometimes they bring good luck and they might just be a sign of a fairy village underground. But whatever you do, never step into a fairy ring, as you may become invisible or become trapped in it, like forever.

PIXIE is an enthousiast and a believer. When she hasn't seen something, she has no reason to believe it doesn't exist. In fact, she'll have all the more reasons to believe that is does. When she's never done something before, she has no reason to suspect she can't do it.

She's not naïve, though. She does strive to remain her good sense. And as much as she asks herself "why shouldn't I?" she also, from time to time poses the question:

"Why should I?"

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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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