

Parzival, the Red Knight

mixed media on panel

19 x 13 cm 2022

The original red knight was King Ither. Ither is the son of one of the sisters of Uther and therefor a cousin of King Arthur. The young Parzival wants to be a knight and is obsessed with Ither's shining armour and can think of nothing else he could ever want more or even equally. In the heart of one of his tantrums focusing on the object of his obsession, Parzival pokes king Ither in the eye, takes his armor, puts it on, starts calling himself the Red Knight and rides off on Ither's horse in search of a mentor, who will instruct him in the ways of knighthood.

He meets one of the knights of the Square Fable who teaches Parzival the most important duties of a knight are self-control and moderation. He then realizes what he has done, turns around and rides for many moons until he arrives home. He is determined to make right what he's done wrong. He finds King Ither, and offers him his armour, his horse and his humble service. King Ither laughs, puts his hand on Parzival's shoulder and tells him to rise like an equal, for he has successfully passed the test and may now officially call himself the Red Knight.

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PARZIVAL is able to see and acknowledge his weaknesses. He is prepared to admit he was wrong. To himself and to others. Without the sensation of losing face. This way you cannot lose. Either you win, or you learn.

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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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