

JASKI GALLERY

AMSTERDAM



Ratty

mixed media on panel

19 x 13 cm 2022

Ratty is a busy little bee. He's full of restless energy and likes to do stuff. He's not a great thinker, no world leader, but he sure can run like the wind. He runs up and down this colossal Juniper tree to carry messages between the bird, perched atop the tree, and the serpent, who dwells beneath the tree roots. The bird knows a lot and wants to convey his findings and impart wisdom. The snake interprets and speculates.

For ratty there is no truth or lies. There's no right or wrong. No up or down. There's only here and now. He just tries to remember what the snake said. Then he runs and runs and delivers the message and then tries not to forget what the bird tells him.

RATTY is honest. He doesn't let anyone truth or gossip affect him. He knows there's no such thing as truth. Or gossip. There's only assumptions, interpretations and intent. Information he receives does not change the world and therefor does not change the way he sees it.

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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.