

Agloolik
mixed media on panel
19 x 13 cm 2022

Agloolik is a protective guardian for the creatures on the other end of the water surface. In return, they keep him company. And they play with him.

But he also provides aid to fishermen and hunters. If hunters pays Agloolik a visit before fishing, and promise to come back, Agloolik will bless the hunters with a nice juicy catch.

Agloolik rules in the depths of puddles too inhospitable for other gods of the sea to bear, and has guided humans to waters filled to the brim with fish and sea life beyond the reach of gods who do not dare venture into his watery sphere of influence.

That's the sort of thing Agloolik comes up with. He's alone a lot. Doesn't have a lot of fellow conversationalists. Not above water anyway. But Agloolik can't talk underwater. He ins't a fish, has no gills. He tried, once, which scared

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away all of his underwater pals, and all that came out was, well, “AGGGLLOOOLLKK”.

But it’s all good. Agloolik is happy enough. He has friends. Acquaintences. And he does have fun.

AGLOOLIK doesn’t need much. He likes company. Even though he’s an introvert, he enjoys the close proximity of other beings.

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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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