

Juniper, the Tree

mixed media on panel

19 x 13 cm 2022

A long time ago, there was a woman who felt she didn't have a purpose in life. She felt empty and redundant. She decided she wanted nothing more than to be a mother. She lived in a time before candles on birthday cakes, before shooting stars, even before wells or coins to toss into them. So, one winter, she decides to go into the courtyard, sit under the juniper tree and make a wish.

She closes her eyes and concentrates, so hard. After an uneventful while, she feels the wind playing with her hair and leaves stroke her cheek and hears the swish, rustle and crinkle of woodland creatures. When she opens her eyes, the giant tree stands leaning over her, a smile gently crackling his crusty face. She reaches for his outstretched hand and right then and there is when and where the magic entered the world.

JUNIPER believes in magic. She has to. It is her right to exist. Not to believe in magic is not to believe in herself. So she has no choice but to believe in magic. And even if she did, she would.

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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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