

# JASKI GALLERY

AMSTERDAM



## Johannes

mixed media on panel

26 x 18 cm 2022

Johannes is an astronomer. A lover of the immense as well as the immensely small. He is obsessed with magnificent subjects like the weather and the solar system and can suddenly be absorbed by a seemingly insignificant insight like how to economically stack watermelons.

When asked where this obsession came from, Johannes reminisces: "As a child, my mother showed me a great comet in the sky and a few nights later my father took me out at night to see a lunar eclipse. At that moment, looking up at the sky, I discovered that the planets in the solar system have oval-shaped orbits. If I'm not mistaken, I was also right then and there the first to correctly explain how earthlings see. Oo, a snowflake. See how perfectly hexagonal symmetrical its shape? Wouldn't that be a perfect occasion to extend the discussion into a hypothetical atomistic physical basis for the symmetry."

JOHANNES has a wide range of interests. Thinking of one thing one moment and the next thing the next, may

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make him seem untrustworthy or flaky or even weird, but in fact it enables him to see connections no one ever made before. It permits him to think outside the box, color outside the lines.

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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.