

JASKI GALLERY

AMSTERDAM



Lob and Gabrielle

mixed media on panel

127 x 78 cm including frame 2022

Lob, or Lob-Lie-By-the Fire, also referred to as The Hairy One. Lob is a very content and fulfilled creature. He's gigantic, and very, very hairy. He really likes the way he looks and the fact that he is, if not for his fur, naked, doesn't bother him in the least.

Lob doesn't need much. He happily helps you out with any household chores you may have in exchange for leftover food, a saucer of milk and a place in front of the fire. Lob is very strong and doesn't get cold. He will run any errand you have for him. Whether it's herding sheep on a snowy night, logging rocks, reaping or sowing, mowing the lawn, repairing fishing nets or even a boat, Lob will do so with a smile on his hairy face.

He loves to be in your company, silently. You can invite him to snuggle up against you, or you can offer him your last cookie, (which he will share with you all the same). Just do not ever offer him clothes. He will not thank you for that. Gabrielle did her research. She found that many an old manuscript speak of Lob, although his name may

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vary, it is most certainly him. And on more than one occasion, Gabrielle read the specific warning not to present him with clothing. In 1512, in the wine cellar of an abbey in Northern England, Lob was offered a monk's habit and Lob allegedly cried out:

"Cap for the head, alas, poor head Coat for the back, alas, poor back Breeches for the breech, alas, poor breech."

Supposedly, Lob subsequently departed in a "melancholy wail", the manuscript furthermore declares that his "voice could thenceforth be heard in the whistling winds of the mountains, mourning the loss of his friar friend."

LOB AND GABRIELLE are one. They have been apart for most their lives. They haven't known about one another for most of their days. But when the day finally came, where they met, they just clicked.

They are both what people call 'silent waters'. They spend their happiest days in solitude, reading by the fire. They have been alone for most of their lives. They enjoys being alone. And they enjoy it best when they're together.

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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.