

JASKI GALLERY

AMSTERDAM



Avi

mixed media on panel

100 x 60 cm 2022

Avi provides a place of comfort for all the members of the Hug Squad. It is her bedroom, her observation post, her cabin, engine room, flight deck, headquarters. She makes sure everyone can recharge.

The things that recharge them vary from person to person, creature to creature.

Some recharge through sleep, others through heightened consciousness.

Some through solitary confinement, others through connection.

Some reflect, others gaze into infinity.

She makes sure everyone can find rest, be themselves and be at peace. She does so, by dreaming. Here she is at

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home. Here she is at peace. Here, she is the Aviator.

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AVI has dreams. There's so much she wants to do. There's so much she wants to be. She wants to be a pilot. She wants to be an explorer. A scientist. An adventurer. Biologist. Zoologist. Writer. Painter. Designer. Wizard. And that's okay. As long as there's still time, all is possible. As long as it's not too late, possibilities are endless.

And it's never too late.

Now is a good time to start dreaming.

Now is a good time to make them come true.

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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.