

JASKI GALLERY

AMSTERDAM



Claude 9

mixed media on panel

18 x 13 cm 2020

When Claude 9 was still Claude, or maybe Claude one-and-a-half, but certainly no more than Claude 2, he was not much more than a pair of crystallized snowflakes, who found each other in the bleak midwinter. As the daylight dwindled, they found themselves attracting all sorts of fluffiness and merriment. Nowadays, they go by the name of Claude 9, known to spread joy, paint random objects in a bright shade of pink and occasionally take on a hitchhiker.

CLAUDE 9 is all love. He absorbs it, cultivates it, breeds it and passes it on. Claude 9 loves you with all his hearts, just as you are.

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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.