

JASKI GALLERY

AMSTERDAM



Eleanor Gwyn

mixed media on panel

26 x 18 cm 2022

After a storm all but destroyed the royal hen house, Eleanor Gwyn became a celebrity figure during the Restoration period.

Praised by fellow fowl for her comic performances as one of the first actresses in the henhouse, she became best known for being a long-time mistress of King Cock-a-Doodle-Do of West-Fowlia. Called "pretty, witty Nell" by the royal household, she has been regarded as a living embodiment of the spirit of her time and has come to be considered a folk heroine, with a story echoing the rags-to-royalty tale of Cinderella. Speculatively due to her masculine energy, she was sometimes referred to as William Nell.

ELEANOR GWYN is a positive spirit and a show girl. When life sets you back, instead of throwing in the towel, she creates, sees and seizes opportunities to turn a seemingly hopeless situation around.

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Op al onze transacties zijn onze Algemeen Voorwaarden van toepassing, gedeponneerd ter griffie van de Arrondissementsrechtbank te Amsterdam op 30 november 1998 onder nummer 234 / 1998

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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.