

# JASKI GALLERY

AMSTERDAM



## **Catharina and her Henri**

mixed media on panel

26 x 18 cm 2022

Catharina is a noblewoman. An art lover in the broadest of ways. Everything she does echoes the festivities for which Catherine's court is famous. The fêtes, picnics, and mock battles of the magnificent entertainments, all hosted and designed by Catherina.

The musical shows in particular allow Catherina to express her creative gifts. They are usually dedicated to the ideal of peace in the realm and based on mythological themes. To create the necessary dramas, music, and scenic effects for these events, Catherina employs the leading artists and architects of the day. Historians already call her "a great creative artist in festivals." Catherine gradually introduces changes to the traditional entertainments. A distinctive new art form emerges from these creative advances. Owing to its synthesis of dance, music, verse, and setting, the production she is about to perform will later be regarded by scholars as the first authentic ballet there ever was.

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The legend that Catharina introduced a long list of techniques and utensils to process citrus fruits for the first time is a myth commonly discredited by most food historians and attributed to the invention of the limelight by her faithful husband, King Henri.

CATHARINA has vision. She takes things to a higher level and does not need to do it all by herself. When she sees a talent in others, she will gladly share the limelight.

HENRI takes pride in the little things. He enjoys seeing others shine and will make an effort to put them in the spotlights.

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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.