

# JASKI GALLERY

AMSTERDAM



## **Caren**

mixed media on panel

26 x 18 cm 2022

Caren is a psychopomp. It is her responsibility to escort newly deceased souls from the dinnertable to the afterlife. Her role is not to judge the deceased, but simply to gently guide them.

Also, Caren is a mediator between the unconscious and conscious realms. A coin to pay Caren for passage is sometimes placed in the mouth or on the eyes of a departed animal. Some say that those who can not pay the fee, have to wander between the dining room and the kitchen for one hundred years, until they are finally allowed to cross. And although Caren appreciates a good shiny silver coin, she's not that demanding. She doesn't want their money. They'll need that themselves to pay the ferryman. She happens to like fish, or shepherd's pie or a good stew and is especially fond of nice juicy fowl. And let's face it, they will not be needing that particular part of their entity anyway. So really everybody wins.

So at the end of the day, more than anything else, Caren is a helpful animal and she makes the best of an

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otherwise unfortunate situation.

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CAREN has the ability to rise above any situation. She knows her own strength and she is aware of her flaws. She is willing to work on the flaws she can change and prepared to accept the ones she can't. She is sympathetic towards her surroundings, and realistic enough not to dwell and linger in pity or self-loathing.

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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.