

I sincerely doubt it was Ardith's intention to imply an artist should never show ("exhibit" is a better term) portfolio photos without owners' permission. The analogy by Margie Johnson regarding artists' portfolios is valid; professional photographers keep portfolios, as do sculptors and models. There has never been any discussion or question (that I have read) over the "legality" or right to use photos in a portfolio for exhibiting an artist's work. There is a very distinct difference between showing photos in a competitive arena for awards and "showing" those same photos in a portfolio. Every remaker I know has such a book, and I've never heard of an owner pitching a fit because a photo of a model they bought is in it!

On another subject mentioned, that of "doubles," I have to admit it would be discouraging to own a custom model in a "different" pose, only to see copies (good and bad, by the same artist or different) pop up. But let's admit it—there are only so many things one can do to a PAM, Lady Phase, SHS, etc.! Even if the same artist does copy a pose they did before, there will be subtle differences simply because each custom model is done individually. I am not condoning "doubles;" I'd like to see new and different poses, too! But, being a remaker myself, I realize how difficult it can be to do something different every time, although so far I have managed to avoid doing doubles (try a "mirror image" instead!). I would prefer to see a "copy" pose in a totally different color than the original, especially if the original was a special order by a customer.

In closing, I believe your forum is a healthy thing for the hobby; we need somewhere to air the sort of topics you have brought up. I'll look forward to the next installment!

**From Denny McDonald, Castle Rock, WA:** I am a beginner to this hobby. I've gotten involved because I thought that it would be fun. But all of this nastiness is really beginning to turn me off. How is it going to affect other people that are just entering the hobby?

Everyone is entitled to their opinion, but do people read what they write before sending it in? Some of the things said in the last issue were ridiculous. How is a remakers club any more of an opportunity to rip off other remakers' ideas than any other club, show, or magazine ad? One person felt that the only reason for a customizer's club was for several remakers getting together to pat each other on the back. Come on, why do most people show their models at all? Or collect them at all? Maybe for the recognition of having the brilliance to buy and/or photograph that champion? Or finding that valuable collectable?

But the one thing that really makes me angry is that so many seem to be condemning all of the members of the club. Two people wanted to know how to get a list of the members. What are we doing to do, blacklist all of them? This is beginning to sound like a witch hunt, or maybe the model horse KKK!

I belong to the Customizer's Club. I joined to learn; if one wants to learn a craft, they usually join with people that can teach them. I also must say that the newsletter comes out in timely fashion, show results are returned quickly, and personal replies to inquires are made, unlike some of the other clubs that I have been a member of.

I have yet to sell a remake, but when I feel that my remakes are good enough, I hope to sell some. I will not show any horse that I no longer own, and I feel that most remakers do not. I am neither condemning nor endorsing this practice, but please don't condemn me because I belong to a certain club!

**From Kimberley J. Harvey, Laguna Hills, CA:** Regardless of medium, be it oil on canvas, pastels, sculpture, or model horse, once a person purchases an item from the original artist, *unless clearly stated in a contract*, that artist relinquishes *all* rights to that item.

Suggested ways of cleaning up this Customizers' Club would be to have a written contract on file with the point keeper from the current owner of the customized model permitting the artist to exhibit the piece in the club. This would constitute a contract allowing the original artist limited show rights. If the customer says "No," the answer is NO! Better yet, the model must be registered in the club as belonging to the customizer and must remain in the customizer's hands for the period of 12 months. The model must then lose its registration (or the artist must re-register the model and retain the model for another 12 months) and then artist is then free to sell

the piece, possibly with championships to its name. Custom order models should *never* be used for this type of competition. Also, it doesn't really matter if the model is "never heard from again." The buyer makes that decision, not the artist. You do not have the right to make the choice for this customer and show the model unless you have written permission.

Of course, the points in this letter would be almost impossible to regulate. This hobby is very small, and the only way to enforce these rules would be to ostracize the artists who did not adhere to them. I am hoping that most of the members of this club are not as adamant on following unethical practices as some seem to be.

Just because a model hobbyist does not choose to deal with her, or other members of this club who are following the same practices, it will not limit us to "showing in OF Only shows." There are many artists in the hobby who are *not* interested in the type of showing she is touting, most of whom are quite reputable and do very nice work. Better yet, it might force more hobbyists to create their own miniature treasures.

Artists most certainly have rights, but they do not have the right to rape the customer.

**From Lynne Baum, Colorado Springs, CO:** I have been remaking models for 15 years. In that time, I have on a few occasions used a photo of a model owned by someone else to advertise my work. I have *not* run ad after ad (ad nauseam) for this purpose. I have *never* shown a model after I've sold it. That is the owner's right and prerogative, that is why she paid me anywhere from \$50 to \$350 for that model. It is hers, and only hers to show, unless she gives the artist express permission to show it.

But there are artists who run ads in every issue of a magazine and repeatedly feature models that have been sold. To run the same photos of the same models that you don't own anymore, for six issues straight, is cheating the buyer—familiarity breeds contempt.

My friend has a gorgeous model that I've coveted for years. It's a fabulous model, no doubt about it. But when my friend enters my show, there are also a lot of other really good models that I've never seen before—new and exciting. Familiarity breeds...etc.

This is why artists should not repeatedly advertise the same horse they don't own any more. This is not to say you can't have that photo in your book at live shows, or use as an example when someone has inquired about your work. Yes, you created the model—but you sold it.

**From A Hobbyist Whose Name Is Withheld By Request:** I don't think customizers' shows are the best thing to do for customizers. I think this issue wouldn't be quite as controversial if it was required that the artist had a *written statement* (for the club's files) from each owner of the models in the club that the artist has permission to show the model. That way, owners could feel better if they didn't want a RRH model shown in these shows.

**From A Hobbyist Whose Name Is Withheld By Request:** At first I was upset [by "Death of a Showhorse"], but as I re-read the poem, I really do see your point, and pretty much agree.

I am a member of the Customizer's Club, and proud of it. It's super to have a club where artists can see how their models compare with other artists' work. It really helps you to improve on your quality. I know it has helped spark my drive to try harder. Before showing any models, I tracked down all the owners possible of the models I show in the club. All said they didn't mind, and a couple were real happy I liked the horse enough to want to show it. I also selected a *few* individuals to see how they compared. All did well—so well, I completely withdrew them out of the club. The reason? They were beating my present show string!

It would be awful for a remaker to show a "sold" model in an open photo show, but I believe in a "private" club such as this, it is okay, *as long as the new owner doesn't mind*. People should ask themselves—if they sold a live horse, would they go to the new owner's place and take the horse to a show without first getting permission from the new owner?

Let's let the Customizer's Club live a peaceful life, but not encourage open customizer's shows, where there is a possibility of showing your ex-work against the owner and the same ex-work.

I have received letters from other members who are mortified about this, but hey, it's a new idea and a new club, and the "wrinkles" just have