

customizers. I've bought many sight unseen models and have not been sorry...guess I've been lucky. I've bought from sales lists and waited months for a model to come. Later on I found out the models were not started until sales were final, and that there were several "clones" out there. Well, I stopped buying from those people. I only buy horses from people I'm sure about or I will have to see the model in real life first.

I will never buy from someone who will show the model after I've bought it!

I do not care if it is only shown in a restricted club or not. If I find out that someone is showing a model I've custom ordered or bought off a sales list without this being made *public*, and especially made known to me first, I would probably be rather angry to say the least. That's stealing in my book. That's stealing my glory, if not my photos and a piece of my horse. If artists/customizers want this club then they should customize their *own* horses! No way is it fair to me as a customer to know that someone is showing my horse when I'm putting out hard-earned cash to buy the horse and show it myself!

Do not cuss out those of us who do not agree with you about the morality of what you are doing. I feel this is very wrong, and I want nothing to do with it nor anyone involved with it.

From "OF Lover From Pittsburgh": I would be upset if someone would show one of my few RR horses just because they made it. I collect OF Breyers and have over 800 of them, and I love to show them. I probably could afford to buy a nice RR horse, but the \$200-\$300 could buy a lot of newer OFs, or perhaps one of the few oldies I need. And yes, my OFs have won in open shows against a lot of "big name" customized horses. But if I found out that the person who did one of my six RR horses was showing them, I'd feel robbed. I don't buy many redone horses, so the ones I do have are carefully chosen. Many of the younger showers also can only afford one CM horse—once his show life is gone, then what?

Some of us like OFs and see them as things other than raw material for customizers. I think I'll just sit back and look at my OFs, perhaps enter a few OF Only shows, and watch the customizers fight it out.

From A Hobbyist Whose Name Is Withheld By Request: I at one time had a pretty biased attitude about what should be printed and I'm sorry now. A very dear friend pointed out, "How can you mature if you can't tread other people's ideas without getting bent out of shape?" I agree now.

I'm very new at this hobby (almost two years) and I've only had time to remake one model completely, with a couple more on the workbench. I realize that an artist puts in a *lot* of time and effort on a horse, but in the "art world," be it oil painting on canvas or whatever, it has always been an understood rule to ask the owner's permission to use their product in ads or however.

I feel for the artists who would like to show off their work—from what I see I don't blame them. But would it hurt to write the owner of their creation to ask permission? I don't think it is asking too much. If I owned someone else's work it would please me to no end for that person to think so much of their work to want to show it off. But at the same time, I would expect to be respected as the owner and be asked if it would be alright.

I am also a member of a customizer's club. I have no idea if it's the same one. How I got involved, I don't know, because it is way out of my league and talent as of yet. But I did try to judge one of the shows. I say try, because I was swamped with over 150 of the most beautiful creations I'd ever seen. I knew right away I was in the wrong club. My one remake and few repaint attempts are sad next to the ones I saw.

My biggest complaint with that club and others is, I wish people would put on the back of the photo what it was before, when it was done, and who did it. Give the artist credit for their work. That's important, but it should also be the owner's privilege to show the horse to its fullest potential. It should also be the owner's responsibility to state who and when the horse was done. The maker of the horse should specify this clearly in their letters to the prospective buyers.

From Irene Lynne Conrad, St. Louis, MO: In the seven years I've been in this hobby, the majority of artists I dealt with were great! Also had my share of artists that weren't! But the bottom line is, once a horse is sold, all rights belong to the owner!

If the artist comes up front and says that they need a photo for the portfolio or for future advertisements of the horse they just sold or created especially for you, that's fine. In fact, I'm having a drafter created and was told that a halter photo is usually kept for the portfolio. She also *asked* my permission to use the photo for advertisements down the line. My answer was yes.

I just can't see how any person in this club can justify their actions! To me this club is just an encounter group for people who need their egos stroked! Do these people realize how much damage this is doing to the hobby as a whole? Sure, go ahead and do a horse, sell it, show it without permission! The new and upcoming artists in this hobby have great role models to look up to, don't they? Let's hope that these new people have the good sense and morals not to follow their example.

From Daphne R. MacPherson, Edmonds, WA: I just finished reading installment #2 of "The Great Artists' Show Rights Debate" and am compelled to put my two cents' worth in. With growth comes change, and we should be aware of this and expect it. Without change there is only stagnation and decline, but while welcoming change, we must also guide the direction it takes to ensure the change benefits the hobby. The topics discussed recently in *The Inside Straight* are signs of change in this wonderful hobby, but I personally don't believe these changes are beneficial to the hobby now or in the future!

In my 15 years of model horse collecting and showing both OF and CM models, it has *never* occurred to me to show photos of a model I didn't own without the model owner's permission! Similarly, it had never occurred to me, as an artist, that I had an "unwritten and understood" right to show photos of a model I had customized and sold *after* I sold the model! The only "unwritten and understood" law I have ever seen in operation is that *show rights go with the model*! Certainly, I will show a new model I've just completed in live or photo shows *before* I sell him; I believe that establishing a light show record for a model enhances its salability, as is true in the real Arab horse world. But once I sell a model, I immediately relinquish all show rights to it without question or discussion! My attitude is the same for OF models I have owned; if I sell it, I no longer show it (one exception to this for both OF and CM models would be retention of a photo to be used as Get or Produce photos for that model's sire or dam which I owned; there are several clubs which emphasize "breeding" and pedigrees, and offer Get and Produce classes). The only time I ever sold a model and retained open show rights to it was in the case of an HR Modern Horse I sold; while finalizing the deal, I asked the buyer if I could show photos of the model in the HR club, with the owner's name listed on the photo. The buyer readily agreed, since she did not show her models at all. This took place over 10 years ago, and if the buyer had said "No," I would not have shown the model!

Initially I was dismayed to read about a customizer's club whose members show photos of models they have sold to others *without* advising their buyers that the photos will be in competition! However, I suddenly realized this situation really isn't new; years ago, I ran across ads offering to sell "show rights" for photos of models *without the model*, and had wondered at that time how anyone could ethically offer such a thing. Nothing much ever seemed to be done publicly about selling show rights, but the practice has mostly disappeared—at least for OFs! Now this situation has popped up again, only worse, since there is now a club involved, and the right to show photos of models without owning the model is assumed instead of openly sold!

I see very little purpose in showing these "other-owned" photos in such a club, since it seems the competition would be limited to the same group of models from month to month (expect when a new member joins, of course, but their work quickly becomes known within the group, too). There can be very little true competition in such a situation, since the same group of photos is going to be judged by the same group of people over and over—"You win this month, I win next month"?! If this were a club open to everyone in the hobby as a Customized Models Only club (I've seen *lots* of OF-only clubs!) in which perhaps the remakers had their own group of classes where they could show models that they owned at the time of the show, it would quite likely be a very popular club!