Haberman v. Hustler Magazine, Inc., 626 F. Supp. 201 (D. Mass. 1986)

| Year | 1986 |
|--------------|---|
| Court | United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts |
| Key Facts | Plaintiff James D. Haberman was an artist and photographer who created surrealistic fine art photograph postcards. Defendants Hustler Magazine, Inc. and Flynt Distributing Co. reproduced versions of plaintiff's photos in <i>Hustler</i> magazine. For one postcard, <i>Hustler</i> showed substantially the entire image at one-fifth the size of the postcard or one-twentieth the size of a page, and for the other postcard, <i>Hustler</i> showed the entire photograph using about one-sixth of the page. Both uses were captioned with comments on the strangeness of the photographs and provided attribution to plaintiff. |
| Issue | Whether defendants' unauthorized reproduction of plaintiff's photographs in <i>Hustler</i> magazine constituted fair use, where <i>Hustler</i> included captions commenting on the strangeness of the photographs and properly attributed them. |
| Holding | The court found that defendants' use of the works in their magazine was fair. In reaching its conclusion, the court found that the <i>Hustler</i> reproductions would "not serve as suitable substitutes for someone who wished to collect" Haberman's works and that <i>Hustler</i> sought, at least in part, to provide commentary on the works. The court also determined that, to the extent that <i>Hustler's</i> purpose was to comment on Haberman's works, full reproduction of them was appropriate. Finally, the court found that the works' publication in <i>Hustler</i> did not materially affect their marketability for plaintiff. |
| Tags | First Circuit; Painting/Drawing/Graphic; Photograph; Review/Commentary |
| Outcome | Fair use found |

Source: U.S. Copyright Office Fair Use Index. For more information, $see \ \underline{http://copyright.gov/fairuse/index.html}$.