Mary Bess Photographic

Wildlife, Nature & UnderSea Art

July 8, 2015

Dear Members of Congress:

I do undersea photography, having taken my first undersea photograph in 1972. Since then I have worked to improve my photography and undersea picture making. I have also pioneered the use of infrared photography underwater as an art form.

This is a hazardous occupation. There is no guarantee that I will survive any given dive.

Costs involved (in dollars):

- Photography and art courses: thousands
- Scuba equipment: thousands
- Photographic equipment: thousands
- Travel: tens of thousands per year
- Promotion: hundreds per year

Skills involved:

- Photographic skills
- Undersea lighting skills
- Scuba skills
- Translating photographs into art

I subscribe to a high standard of personal ethics. My published images are used for the purpose of revealing the beauty of a hidden world and educate those who cannot visit it. I license my work to be used on products that will enhance the life of those who use them. *My work as an undersea photographer is my identity.*

It is alarming to think that anyone with a cell phone can walk into an art gallery and take a snapshot of my work then, with a slight Photoshop variation, legally market it as their own. Not only would the fruits of my effort and financial sacrifice be attributed to someone else, I would have no control over its use – possibly for the promotion of products, lifestyle pursuits or other activities I may vehemently oppose.

To me that would be more like rape than merely stealing the fruits of my labor and creativity. I sincerely hope you will act to protect the intellectual property rights of honest, hard-working Americans.

Most Respectfully,
Mary Bess Johnson, professional undersea photographer

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Resumé

Publications:
2015 Technical Article, September, 2015, Pacific Northwest Underwater Photographic Society
2012 Featured Artist, March, 2012, Pacific Northwest Underwater Photographic Society

International:
2009 Artist Trade Mission to China
2010 Commissioned Photo Shoot, WuYi, China

Auctions:
2012, 2013, 2014, Arts Now Live Auction
2012, 2013, 2014, H'arts Live Auction
2010 Edmonds Mural Society Live Auction

Commercial Displays:
2012 Swedish Hospital, Edmonds, WA
2011 Swedish Hospital, Edmonds, WA
2011 Whidbey Bank, Mukilteo, WA

Solo Exhibitions:
2012, 2014 Gallery North, Edmonds, WA
2011 Mountlake Terrace Library, Mountlake Terrace, WA

Juried Exhibitions:
2015 Edmonds Art Studio Tour, Edmonds, WA
2014 Edmonds Art Studio Tour, Edmonds, WA
2014 Edmonds Art Festival, Edmonds, WA
2013 Edmonds Art Studio Tour, Edmonds, WA
2013 Edmonds Art Festival, Edmonds, WA
2012 Edmonds Art Festival, Edmonds, WA
2011 Lynnwood Library, Lynnwood, WA
2011 **Best in Show** San Juan County Fair, Friday Harbor, WA
2011 **Honorable Mention** Arts of the Terrace, Mountlake Terrace, WA
2011 Fraker Scott Gallery, Seattle, WA
2011 Kenmore Art Show, Kenmore, WA
2011 Schack Arts Center Juried Art Show, Everett, WA
2011 Shoreline Arts Festival, Shoreline, WA
2011 Edmonds Art Festival, Edmonds, WA
2010 **Honorable Mention** Arts of The Terrace, Mountlake Terrace, WA
2010 **Third Place** San Juan County Fair, Friday Harbor, WA
2010 Shoreline Arts Festival, Shoreline, WA
2010 **Honorable Mention** Kenmore Art Show, Kenmore, WA
2010 Edmonds Arts Festival, Edmonds, WA
2010 The Gallery at Towne Center, Lake Forest Park, WA

Education:
2008 Edge (Arts Now) Program
2008 Advanced coursework with Cathy Church, professional underwater photographer
2008 Advanced coursework with Mark Nelson, digital negatives for platinum printing
2007 Advance coursework with Dick Aarentz, platinum printing
2007 Advanced coursework at Everett Community College, digital photography
2006 Coursework with Dick Aarentz, platinum printing
2006 Coursework with Mark Nelson, digital negatives for platinum printing
2005 Coursework with Cathy Church, underwater photography
2004 Coursework with Dan Burkholder, digital negatives for platinum printing
1995-2001 Coursework at Everett Community College, wet and digital darkroom photography