

Arabella Dorman Statement
on Allegations by Michael Yon of
Copyright Infringement

- In December 2006 Arabella Dorman was invited as an official war artist by the British Army to go to Iraq to record the lives of the soldiers on the front line.
- On her return to the UK, Arabella was commissioned to create a number of paintings for the various Regiments with whom she had been embedded.
- The Commanding Officer of one of these Regiment obtained photographs from his soldiers, issued them to Arabella, and authorized her to use them to paint a commemorative commission. Arabella believed that the photos were the property of the MOD, and in commissioning her to use the images, copyright clearance had been secured.
- Arabella held an exhibition of over 80 paintings / drawings in May 2009, *Frontlines: Images from Iraq* at the Frost & Reed.
- During the last week of the exhibition, Mr Yon contacted the gallery and alleged that 4 of the drawings / paintings infringed his copyright in photographs that he had taken whilst a guest of the Regiment in Iraq in 2006.
- Arabella immediately contacted Mr Yon, personally apologising for any misunderstanding / unintentional infringement that may have occurred, and explained the sequence of events that had led to her use of the photographs.
- She offered to credit Yon on her website, and to provide him with further support in directing attention / beneficial publicity towards his work. (Since, in response to Yon's legal threats, the contested images were immediately removed from Arabella's website, this was not possible however.)
- In response to her email, Arabella was sent a series of highly aggressive and threatening letters from Yon's lawyer, demanding excessive sums of monetary compensation of over 7 times the total value of the contested works.
- The nature of these demands was so extreme that Arabella was obliged to seek legal advice, which eventually led to a cessation of demands from Mr Yon's solicitor.
- Her personal letter and her lawyer's attempts to reach a reasonable settlement with Mr Yon remain unanswered.

- In 2009, a senior member of the British Army, who had commissioned the original works contacted Yon personally to verify the above account, to accept responsibility for the accidental infringement and to request that Yon cease to harass Arabella. Yon ignored this request and continues to present the alleged infringement of his copyright as knowing, deliberate and plagiaristic.

To summarise:

Following the allegation in 2009, Arabella and her legal representative sought to settle this dispute, and accepted the principle of a reasonable level of payment to Yon. However, neither she nor her lawyer has received a substantive reply to this communication.

To this day, Yon knowingly continues to post distorted, misleading and defamatory accusations about Arabella online.

Any report that suggests that Arabella has acted with less than 100% honesty, that suggests the alleged infringement was intentional, or in any way impugns Arabella's motives, integrity or character is false and potentially defamatory.