

VICE- JUNE 2015



1) Any update on Alive! publishing an apology?

I have requested that they issue an apology, as well as pulp remaining issues. They did remove the PDF of the issue from their website but I have not heard of a formal apology being published on the Alive! website.

2) Has the editor been in contact with you since last week?

Yes he has sent me a letter in response to the letter that was issued to him last week and presented by my attorney. Father Brian McKevitt is still arguing that 'fair comment' is at play and that there was no copyright infringement. Although he did critique my work within the pages of Alive! He has no legal right to present my artwork on the cover. *They no longer live happily ever after, Being the child of parents with no faith is tough*

The cover was illustrated with my picture Snowy and within the article, a cropped version of Rapunzel.

The cover itself does not credit me or make plain to the average reader that they are writing about my work within. The effect is to make the casual reader or passer-by believe that this is an image created by the Alive! My work was presented to the public in such a way as to imply that I support the magazine's ideology.

Within this context my photograph Snowy, 2008 from the Fallen Princesses series 2007-2009 was deliberately manipulated into forming a criticism about parents who do not promote religion within the household. This sentiment is seething with the classic Catholic guilt trip I reject. In fact this argument is completely opposed to my own way of raising a family, without religion.

3) What is your biggest ideological issue with a publication like this using your image?

I cannot disagree more with the messaging within this Catholic evangelistic publication. It's insulting as well as dishonest of them to use my artwork in this way.

In fact research has shown that children who grow up in secular households are more likely to be compassionate to others, act morally without the need for fear and guilt, and value education and the environment.

I can tell you that my children have questioned the existence of a GOD only because of outer influences. I encourage them to believe in whatever they choose. Why are blue Unicorns any different than Immaculate Conception or Resurrection? For me religious narrative is storytelling similar to Fairy Tales.

This all comes at a pivotal time where I have just released a new large scale tableau series, Gods Of Suburbia. Within this philosophical body of work I humanize religious characters, place them within modernity, and examine religion as an anachronistic ideal.

4) Have you encountered this before, pub using images without permission?

It happens to me every so often online on social media sites and within blogs but never within a publication and never on the cover.

5) Honest opinion on publications like Alive!?

I had never heard of this publication until I was contacted by several people in Ireland and told that my artwork is on the cover. Many of these people expressed their disregard and opposition to this unsolicited publication that is constantly showing up on their doorstep (even after several attempt to stop this) From what I understand they are critical of any ideology other than their own evangelistic Catholic diatribe.

Here is a letter that was sent to the editor and was forwarded to me :

Dear Brian,

Your assertion below continues the condescension and offensiveness. My children have much more hope than those betrayed by your church and its hiding of paedophiles, Magdalene Laundries etc. My mother was deeply Catholic and she ended her days feeling betrayed by the church in which she had put her trust.

We will never agree on the question of whose beliefs are right but the complete lack of compassion for and disdain of those who hold alternative views or lifestyles, as exemplified by the Catholic Church's behaviour during and after the recent marriage referendum and its campaigning against women being allowed to terminate pregnancies when their lives are at risk, when they have been raped etc, are major reasons that "the faithful" are bolting for the church doors, never to return.

Please ensure that your publication is not delivered to my house again.

6) Where do you see the role of religion in contemporary society?

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