

RIHANNA: POPSTAR ACCUSED OF RIPPING OFF PHILIPP PAULUS

Talent borrows, genius steals? Rihanna the renowned US-celebrity was accused of infringing the copyright of photographer Philipp Paulus by using his fashion series "Paperworld" for her music clip 'S&M', which is identically with the set, the staging and the photographs of the fashion series 'Paperworld' by Philipp Paulus.

Rihannas' label Universal Music, responsible for the production of the music video, pointed out explicit willingness of agreement after being contacted by Paulus' lawyer Philip M. Jakober. Because the extrajudicial settlement agreements failed, Philipp Paulus, represented by his lawyer Jakober, will take legal action against Rihanna resp. Universal.

Lawyer Jakober: "In the relevant video-scenes of the music-video "S&M" are essentially the basics of the copyright protected achievements and creations of our client, the young talented fashion-photographer Philipp Paulus, from his fashion editorial 'Paperworld' obviously noticeable. For legitimate reasons the use of copying Paulus' work over a million of times requires an agreement that protects the copyright and the achievements and creations of our client which never has been given by our client, neither to the artist Rihanna nor to her label Universal Music. According to this, the copyright laws of our client has been infringed and the worldwide million-wise exploitation of the video "S&M" is unlawful."

Paulus: "Why a worldwide celebrity is not able to afford a creative director, who creates individual concepts and staging's, is incomprehensible for me. To create new things within the creative cosmos, you can only expect this to come from a real genius, there is no doubt about that. However in this case there are no real genius who created their own work instead they stole ideas from a creative talent. Furthermore every other creative professional should realize how supremely embarrassing it is to copy the work of colleagues from the artistic world and then to be praised for it. While I really respect Rhianna's talents as a musician, nevertheless it is important to respect the creations of others, even young talents, and not to copy their work without any legitimacy for earning money with it in order to make money."

For the major-labels daily business is to instruct chambers with representing their interests for their own copyright and ancillary copyright. So-called **soundspys** are searching on several websites and music-blogs for potential copyright infringements, which then will be hardly admonished by the lawyer's office. These excessive sent admonishments from the major-labels are continuously on the increase and indicate multiple doubtful admonishments based on possible copyright infringements. It is even more astonishing that – how in this case - the major-label Universal Music does exactly what itself denounces and admonishes – namely the infringement of the copyright of others!!

The 19-year-old fashion photographer has publications in several acclaimed magazines' and artists such as Vogue Russia, Kanye West, Kilian Kerner, Kodak and much more. After his A-level-exam this year he moved to Paris to continue his aspiring career.

You can find photos with direct comparisons of Rihannas' music clip and the editorial of Paulus via following link: <http://www.nahtlosblog.de/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/Bildschirmfoto-2011-02-10-um-15.55.48.png> and alternatively via http://www.vogue.ru/upload/iblock/b09/rihanna-9_1241512a.jpg

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The making-of-video about the photo production of Paulus' editorial 'Paperworld' is available via <http://vimeo.com/12931835>

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