



Friday, September 28, 2018

Robert Buchsbaum
Blick Holdings, Inc.
Renaissance Place, Suite 310
1849 Green Bay Road
Highland Park IL 60035-3151

Dear Bob,

As a follow up to our earlier communications with the Blick Art Materials Category Brush Buyer, we want to provide this information regarding the four SKU's of badger hair brushes which we have provided to Blick.

Silver Brush has no evidence to suggest that animals whose hair was used by the factory who supplied our badger blend brushes were treated cruelly, inhumanely or unethically. We were as disturbed as you and many other people were by the PETA video. We take this situation seriously and will support our customers and artists who are concerned about this problem.

1. We make every effort to confirm that the brush factories and their vendors of natural hair and bristle we use to manufacture our products deal ethically and humanely with the animals from which they procure material for the manufacture of natural hair brushes. Since our founding in 1991, those efforts have included personal visits by our principals to *every factory* with which we deal worldwide. We inspect their facilities, working conditions for employees and their sourcing of materials to confirm that it is done in a sustainable and ethical way. We have not and will not deal with any facility in which we have no confidence in their ethical standards.
2. We recognize that significant advancements have been made in recent years in developing synthetic filaments which often perform favorably compared with natural hair materials. We offer a wide range of synthetic brushes in addition to natural hair brushes for artists working in all media. However, we understand that many artists still prefer natural bristle and natural hair products. We remain committed to offering ethically sourced natural products for those artists who prefer them as alternatives to synthetics. That said, we continue to pursue more synthetic brush alternatives, including suitable alternatives to badger hair.
3. We believe that some artists who prefer natural hair brushes and who are also concerned about the ethical treatment of animals may move to synthetic alternatives once they try them; though synthetic filaments are made from petroleum derivatives, which also impact the world we live in and the environment in different ways. Artists choices and complex tradeoffs in this area will evolve over time.

92 North Main Street, Suite 19-I • Windsor, NJ 08561-0414
Phone: 609-443-4900 • Fax 609-336-0274 • email: ejflax@silverbrush.com • www.silverbrush.com



4. Silver Brush's mission is to supply artists with the widest possible selection of ethically sourced artists brushes to support and nurture their creative pursuits.

We are committed to working with our factories to make sure the components of the products we sell are ethically sourced. We believe we can influence them to be vigilant in their oversight to help end irresponsible practices.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deirdra A. Silver". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

Deirdra Silver, CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward Flax". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "E".

Edward Flax, CFO