

# My Shot

This is an artistic underwater model shoot project and rather unusual in its concept. The creation of a team and the logistical setup was a challenge on its own. The outstanding performance of every player during the shoot made it a day I will never forget.

I would like to present you the making-of and outcome of some art pieces of a unique photoshoot.

The idea was to get a professional industrial helmet diver get a close encounter with some mermaids. In a way, that he, fully equipped with all his high tech equipment feels vulnerable towards these half-naked sea creatures. For this shoot, I was looking for this contrast.

The shoot was done in an indoor dive-site in Beringen, Belgium. The exclusiveness of Todi-experience lies in the fact that it is a giant aquarium with more than two thousand fish swimming around. Max depth is twelve meters, (Thirty-five feet) and the water temperature is about twenty-eight degrees Celsius, (83 degrees Fahrenheit).

The shoot took place at an average depth of seven meters, (twenty-one feet) and took about five hours.

My favourite make-up artist Sarah De Graef did the make-up. For the last six months she was at my side for all my shoots. No Sarah, no shoot. In addition, since make-up for underwater shoots is not an everyday thing, she has made it one of her specialities.

The mermaids who performed were mermaid Liara from Holland and mermaid Céline from Belgium; both very dedicated in their role as a sea creature for this shoot. I can say it was not easy to find mermaids to perform topless. I was looking for the creature from the sailor tales and not for the fairy tale figure.

It was amazing to see their graciousness and playing their role at the same time.

The Kirby diver, (named after the type of helmet-system he works with, KIRBY MORGAN) was an old friend of mine. He works as an instructor for a commercial diver school. The school was so kind to provide the completely technical dive set up. A nice side note is the fact that the helmet is equipped with a camera that provides live feed on a screen along with the communication line. Therefore, the rest of the crew could follow the whole show live on shore.

I asked a friend of mine to



**Camera:** Canon EOS 5D Mark IV with a 16-35mm lens

**Housing:** Nauticam-NA5DIV

**Lights:** INON Z-330

accompany me as buddy diver during the whole sequence. Aside from his role as safety diver, he provided a lot of backstage footage.

Myself, I am a Belgian underwater model photographer with an artistic mind. Most of my underwater work is done in swimming pools, wellness pools and indoor dive sites.

For the comfort of the models, I look for the ideal conditions. For me it is a perfect combination of two of my passions, diving and photography. Besides that, I am

an experienced mountaineer with an expertise in Central Asia, more specific in Kirgizstan. All of this is just a side job along with my job as an instructor in the Belgian Defence. Yes, the combination art and defence is possible.

To see more of this shoot you can visit my website and on my Instagram accounts Lemurvission\_models and Lemurvission.

**Filip Blommaert**  
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# My Shots

by David Fleetham

I had just left two or three billion sardines 100 yards back along the wall in Moalboal in the Philippines and my head was still reeling with that odd and disorienting experience when I spotted this small spinning ball. I had seen and photographed schools of small striped catfish, *Plotosus lineatus*, before. Their heads all looking forward, jostling with each other to be the first of the group to investigate a new section of sand, but this was not that, although it was close. This was on a wall and these turned out to be juvenile convict fish, *Pholidichthys leucotaenia*, also known as convict blennies. As juveniles they attempt, rather effectively, to imitate the catfish, which possess venomous spines that can cause intense pain. The idea here is that predators that steer clear of the catfish would give the convict fish the same benefit of the doubt with the hope of making it to adulthood.

David Fleetham  
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*Convict Fish, Pholidichthys leucotaenia, Philippines.*  
*Shot with a Canon 5D mark IV and a Canon Sigma 15mm, f/13, 1/160sec, ISO320, in an Ikelite dry-lock housing with twin Ikelite 161 strobes set on -2/3 stop on TTL.*

*Striped Catfish, Plotosus lineatus, Philippines.*  
*These striped catfish, Plotosus lineatus, have a venomous spine in front of the pectoral fin. Philippines.*  
*I shot this with a Canon 5D mark IV and a Canon EF100mm f/2.8 macro, f/16, 1/160sec, ISO160, in an Ikelite dry-lock housing with twin Ikelite 161 strobes on TTL.*

Do you have a favourite shot or an image/s which made a dive special.  
E mail yours with some text to  
[peter@uwpmag.com](mailto:peter@uwpmag.com)  
and yours could be the next My Shot/s