Gay E. Lasher
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7/21/15

Re: Copyright Protection for Certain Visual Works

I have been a textile artist for12 years prior to which I was a photographic artist for 14 years. I am a graduate of Bryn Mawr College (B.A.), Columbia University (M.A.) and University of Denver Graduate School of Professional Psychology (Psy.D). Both my previous photographic works and current textile works have ben accepted in numerous state and national shows and represented visually in books, magazines and online publications and video.

Especially in this digital age, copyright is the best protection artists have for their unique and original works and the basis on which their businesses are based. Infringing on our copyright is not only stealing the money we can make from our own use of images of our work but also stealing the time, energy and costs involved in creating the work in the first place. We must have the right to control how and when our work is used and by whom.

Our work does not lose value when we publish it but becomes part of our entire business inventory. Many of us already look with dismay on websites like Pinterest on which artwork is often published without attribution or links to the artists' websites. There are instances in which work has been taken from such sites and used to make commercially available products without the permission or compensation of the artists.

Many of us have also been following court cases involving the work of Richard Prince and have seen how different courts have interpreted whether his "lifting" of others' artworks does or does not meet ever changing criteria of whether the original artwork has been "sufficiently changed." If you walk into a store and leave without paying for the merchandise, this is called stealing and is punishable by law. How is using someone else's artwork without their permission and/or recompense any different?

Please do not make the lives of artists any harder,

Sincerely,
Gay E. Lasher