I'm 18 and an artist going to New York to major in painting at Cooper Union. I paint for 10+ hours every day that I can, and I've likely posted over 200 paintings onto the internet with the implication of ownership. I as a teenager without a job yet cannot afford to register every single piece of work I've made, nor do I have the time to register every single piece I've made. Beyond emotional argument, there has to be some tested and held objective ethics that an artist is implied to own their work because they made it, not because they bought it. Why would I pay more for my work? I have already bought the materials, spent the time, and toiled over the thought, the work is mine physically, and that same idea should be parallel when it becomes digital without the need to invest more unpaid labor into it and integrate myself deeper into a database.

I feel as though art is one of the last bastions that man can own, it is purely your own thought. There is no basis, it is as you want without rules to tell you wrong. I am not relinquishing ownership because it was shared, but to make me pay money simply to have the right to say my work is being abused or used against my will? That is stripping me and mankind of the right and pride of its most primal functions-art.