I was an illustrators; agent in Manhattan for many years are represented 25 leading illustrators who worked in the area of advertising, fashion and beauty. The idea that artists do not have inherent rights to the works they create is abhorrent. Under the proposed system, artists would need to pay to register their own works to protect them from being harvested freely. As many illustrators and artists have low incomes, they will inevitable be unable to register much of their work, and will in effect end up competing with themselves as their work is snatched by wholesale stock houses and sold at a lower rate than the artist could command.

It is fair for an artist to be paid commensurate for the use of his or her work, and again for subsequent uses of the work as agreed contractually.

The proposal is for contact thievery, no less.

Pamela Neail Thomas