

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty](#)
Subject: Artist's work
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It has been my concern for some time, that the work of independent artists is not protected as well as it could be. While I understand that copyright is implied once the work is created, it has proven difficult for individual artists to win in the courts without a work being registered at the copyright office. Registering each work of art is cost prohibitive to the small, independent artist attempting to make a living from selling smaller works of art. (As opposed to large corporate or public installations.)

In order to sell, we must put images of our work into the public arena. Often, it is assumed that because those images are being published on-line, or elsewhere, that they are public domain. The recent discussion of opening copyright law to allow works of art into the public domain if the "holder of the copyright cannot be found after reasonable search" does not help the individual artist. With the advent of the internet, our images can be sent around the world in a matter of seconds and stolen by anyone claiming they did a reasonable search and couldn't find the artist.

I'm requesting the "powers that be" to think about the small, independent artist attempting to make a living from their creativity and hard work. Please make it easier to protect our work from being stolen.

Thank you.

Rebecca Kemble