

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty](#)  
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My name is J.F. Podevin, I have been an illustrator for over 30 years and I live in California. I started in this business when artists were unaware of copyright and the selling of limited rights of their works. There is no resemblance now to the business as it was 25 years ago. It began to change gradually with stock image companies encouraging new illustrators to plagiarize best selling images. Then when images were posted on the internet and image manipulation became a common tool, designers began to glean and copy their ideas from the wellspring of the internet. I have taught in colleges and universities where plagiarism of the written word is punishable by expulsion but I have never seen any such warning regarding the visual arts.

Wouldn't it be nice if we could all cut and paste Tolstoy, Mark Twain and Shakespeare and sign our name to it.

There should be an agency or a cooperative which enforces the rights of the individual creator. The fallacy that a work of art is protected from the moment of creation has buried us. There is no such protection. It takes a list of lawyers and a lot of money to do this. Artists are not rich but they are a critical part of the foundation of our culture and we are disappearing. New artists are not encouraged to think but only to cut and paste. We are a poorer culturally than we have ever been.

My illustration is primarily conceptual. My career has been built on the strength of my ideas which are stolen more than regularly by very large corporations (via the ad agencies and design firms they hire) to the smallest design firm. I have no recourse. The law belongs to those who can afford it and have the luxury of time. I have neither because I have to work very, very hard to make a living.

The methodology I use to calculate my losses is that I see the images I have made stolen all of the time and I calculate that if I had been called to make my own image or a derivation of my image or even a new, original image, I would be the one being paid.

If I sound bitter it is because I am. Please contact me if you would like me to provide you with examples of the rampant plagiary of my work.