

From: [REDACTED]
To: FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty
Cc: info@copyrightalliance.org
Subject: my rights as an artist/creator
Date: Monday, March 22, 2010 10:33:29 AM

Dear Ms. Espinel -

The Copyright Alliance has informed me of this welcome invitation from the Obama Administration to share my thoughts on my rights as a creator.

My name is Kiwi McDowell and I am a self-employed artist who makes a living selling my art at artist markets and festivals, as well as, small boutiques. Without the current or even more stringent copyright laws and penalties for piracy, my livelihood will be impacted. I rely on companies respecting my copyrights and paying me for my products based on originality, and in some cases, exclusivity.

With the internet and digital nature of business today, it is easier than ever for less-than-reputable companies to steal art and design, sometimes selling it as their stock art to reputable companies. I see it at every artist market i attend - art by myself or my colleagues being used without permission. It is disheartening and expensive to combat. Any changes in the law will make the problem that much more dire.

I urge you to take the creative business owners, who pay taxes and fight to make a living, into account when considering any change to the copyright laws and especially the designation of "Orphaned Works". Tougher penalties and regulations should be put in place if any changes are being made. While it would be great to believe that people work from a place of honesty and integrity, it is unfortunately not always the case. Let's not encourage people to cut corners who will do so without any threat of legal or financial ramifications.

Sincerely,
Kiwi
Atlanta, Ga
Artist for a Living

Tags: [copyright alliance](#), [copyright law](#), [Orphan Works](#)