

DISCLAIMER

Copyright for Artists was written to aid and educate entrepreneurs and artists about their copyright rights. The *guide* is based on United States law. Nothing contained within *Copyright for Artists*, including all forms, constitutes or intends to be legal advice. The author disclaims all responsibility for any and all losses, damages, or causes of action that may arise or be connected with the use of these materials. The information presented in this *guide*, along with all charts, website names and addresses, and forms may change with time. Consult a licensed attorney for information and advice concerning your specific questions.

Part 1: Introduction

Whether you create art for fun, for profit, or both, it is always advisable to register for copyright protection for your work. Rights to your own original designs remain protected, and you will be prepared if anyone alleges that you violated someone's intellectual property rights. As an artist it is important for you to know your rights, exercise your rights, and protect your rights.

Copyright for Artists provides information on how to register for United States copyright protection for various types of visual arts, such as advertisements, drawings, paintings, jewelry designs, needlework, original prints, sewing patterns, posters, sculpture, and weaving designs. The guide does not apply to non-U.S. works, musical works (like songs), or literary works (like books).



This guide was created to help non-lawyers gain a better understanding of copyright protection in a clear and concise way. *Copyright for Artists* is tailored to the needs of artists and includes examples, illustrations, and answers to their frequently asked questions. Please respect my own copyright by not copying or distributing this guide without obtaining my written permission.

Part 2: Intellectual Property Terms

Intellectual property is “a category of intangible rights protecting commercially valuable products of human intellect.”¹ Artistic works, names, images, and designs (like jewelry designs and logos) are all examples of intellectual property.

Tangible property is anything that exists in a real-life form, like an apple or a stop sign. Intellectual property is different because it includes mainly ideas and designs. Tangible property, like an apple, can't be used once it's gone, but intellectual property can still be copied and distributed without harming the original. Poster prints of Leonardo da Vinci's famous *Mona Lisa* painting



¹ *Black's Law Dictionary* (7th ed.), 1999.