

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Letter re: invitation from the Obama Administration to share thoughts on my rights as a creator  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 24, 2010 4:56:54 PM

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The Copyright Alliance has informed me of this welcome invitation from the Obama Administration to share my thoughts on my rights as a creator. First let me congratulate you, Ms. Espinel, on being appointed to this esteemed position.

As a visual artist (a painter, printmaker and mixed media drafts-person), I have always worked hard in my field to create art and make a living. But even though I feel that I work as hard as my fellow artists in other fields, I have always felt that visual artists are not as well protected as our cousins in the music, theater and literary fields.

Yet, visual artists have our share of intellectual property woes: these include having our images pirated & infringed (I have had a number of friends who suffered this); receiving no royalty and not being notified who owns our work, even in areas where the law says we are entitled to these things (this I have experienced personally); and also, not being allowed to actually donate works of art to charitable causes. This last has been experienced by every artist I know, as visual artists tend to be very generous. We are allowed only to take a tax deduction on the cost of materials used in making the artwork, while our wealthy collectors are allowed to take a tax deduction on the market cost of the artwork. How ironic this is: it is not only the artist who would benefit greatly from this privilege - it would allow us to donate more freely to many worthy causes.

I urge you to consider better rules for the protection of our intellectual property, enforcement for the rules already in place (and these should be extended), and to create legislation that will allow us to take a tax deduction on the market cost of our artwork.

Thank you,

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