

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 24, 2010 4:28 PM  
**To:** FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty  
**Subject:** Copyright and my thoughts on my rights as a creator of visual works

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Ms. Espinel and the Obama Administration

*"The American Society of Picture Professionals has informed me of this welcome invitation from the Obama Administration to share my thoughts on my rights as a creator."*

I am a visual artist photographer, I work freelance for books and magazine. The world of the web makes it increasingly difficult to protect and police my copyright. The general public while aware of copyright law still does not always seem to respect the rights of visual artists. On my own website I can protect my work by disabling the right mouse click copy and paste feature to make it more difficult for people to pull images from my site, however when an online magazine purchases the rights to use one of my images on the web there is no protection, my images can easily be copied and saved by any user wishing to do so. I can't require that they disable the right mouse click on their websites, I can't require them to embed my copyright on the photo, or in the photo. As an artist I am at the mercy of hoping people will respect copyright law. I have already had one of my images go viral all over the internet, I tried to police this but it was impossible, most of the time I found the image on virtual game sites or on chat room sites and unless you become a member or create a log in these sites do not allow you to contact the admin for the site to report the stolen image. When I have gone to the trouble to create a log in I have not been successful in even getting a response.

I have also had work stolen by overseas piracy where my published work in print was copied and then reprinted without my knowledge or permission and then remade into another product that was then marketed and sold to an American company. I was able to have a lawyer get in touch with the USA company and they agreed to stop purchasing the product, however it was impossible and too costly to try to track down the original violator overseas.

My only source of income comes from my talent as a photographer, my images are my product, I cannot afford to have people copying them and using them for free. It would be nice if online publishers put in the necessary code and safeguards so that copyrighted material on their sites could not be easily copied by others. The technology exists but it is not being used.

Best Regards,  
Dusty Perin Photographer  
Acton, Maine