

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty](#)  
**Subject:** Intellectual Property  
**Date:** Sunday, March 21, 2010 2:45:48 PM

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Dear Ms. Espinel,

As a commercial artist working in the field of advertising I have seen intellectual property rights of artists steadily eroded over the years. The digital revolution has made the theft of creativity very easy. A number of artists have told me they would like to get out of the business if they can because the erosion of rights has led to fewer jobs and less money for the jobs that are available.

Photographic images on stock photo sights are routinely taken to create comps or storyboards or some form of visual for commerce without compensating the photographer. This practice has hurt both illustrators who routinely would be hired to create a comp or storyboard and it hurts the photographers whose work is being stolen.

Purchase orders routinely force artists to sign away their legal rights to their work.

Orphan Rights legislation is also a threat to artists and photographers in maintaining the benefit of ownership of their work.

Places like New York and Los Angeles have been vibrant creative hubs largely because of the pools of talented professionals attracted to the industries such as film and advertising. If the rights of the creators cannot be maintained those talent pools will wither ultimately affecting the industries that supported them.

Cordially,  
Bruce Rauffenbart  
New York City.