

## COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT INFORMATION

Here is my copyright story.... In November of 2014 I received this email from a photographer in Australia via my website contact form:

There appears to be a serial passer off and copyright infringer on FAA who is selling your work of the flamingoes - here is a link <http://fineartamerica.com/featured/hot-pink-brigitta-frisch.html>

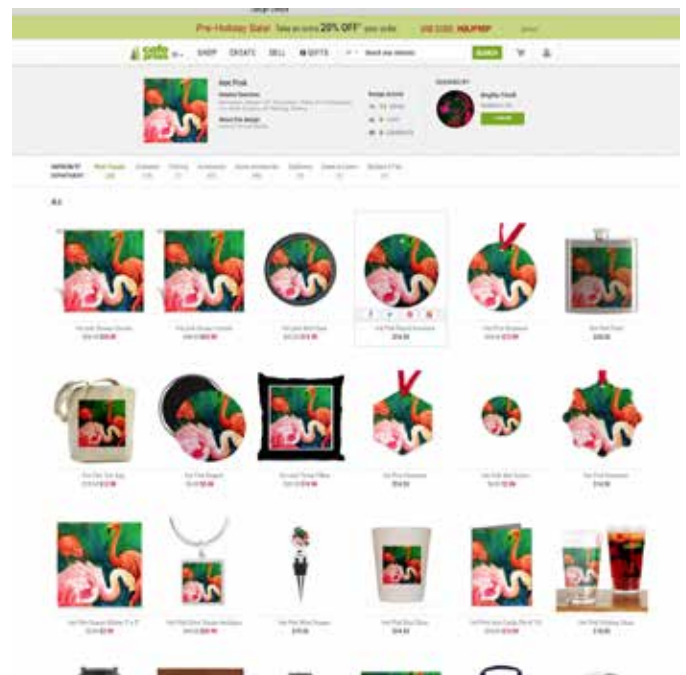
She has already removed some of her work when I pointed out who the original painter and/or photographer is. I will leave this one to you! I am a professional photographer who is tired of seeing my work infringed.

Like Crista, stolen images had never really crossed my mind for art work. Photography, yes, since in my day job as a graphic designer I have had clients ask me to 'just get something off the internet for my brochure.'

I began image searches and found my work on Fine Art America (and their sister international sites), on CafePress, Zazzle.... As well as Chinese, Egyptian, and Turkish sites. Also a painting of my Poodle was on a 'how-to' blog site (that one was in Spanish).

Getting the work taken down from the American print-on-demand sites was fairly straight forward. Those sites have info on what you need to do if your copyright is being infringed. A pain, but doable. Talking it over in one of the coaching calls... I decided it was not worth the hassle with the foreign based sites that were not in English.

I googled lots of info, and digital theft is widespread! I also pretty much tracked down where my images were stolen. All were paintings from a close time period that I had uploaded to my wordpress blog... found this because of several sites that offer downloadable images of everything imaginable a to z and I could right click on my art and they linked back to my blog page.



These sites are: imgkid/galleryhip/pixgood/becuo and probably others. They all are in the same format and do have a disclaimer that the images MAY be under copyright. My best guess is they bulk snatch images all around the web. IF you go to these (they are .com sites) be careful... I have gotten phishing warnings when going there).

An artist friend recommended using Digimarc for adding digital watermarks. The usual visible watermarks can be good promo tools if they don't obscure the image, but are easy to remove. Even the ones that cover the entire image can be removed if you are good with photoshop.

<https://www.digimarc.com>

Here are some links I found in 2014-2015 when I was researching my options after locating my stolen images. Some are geared to crafts people, but work for fine arts too.

<http://yourbusiness.azcentral.com/copyright-artwork-paintings-2169.html>

<http://designshack.net/articles/inspiration/what-to-do-if-someone-steals-your-design/>

<http://craftsandcopyrights.com/copyrights.html>

<https://lumendatabase.org/topics/14>

<http://digital-law-online.info/lpdi1.0/treatise33.html>

<http://www.copyright.gov/title17/>

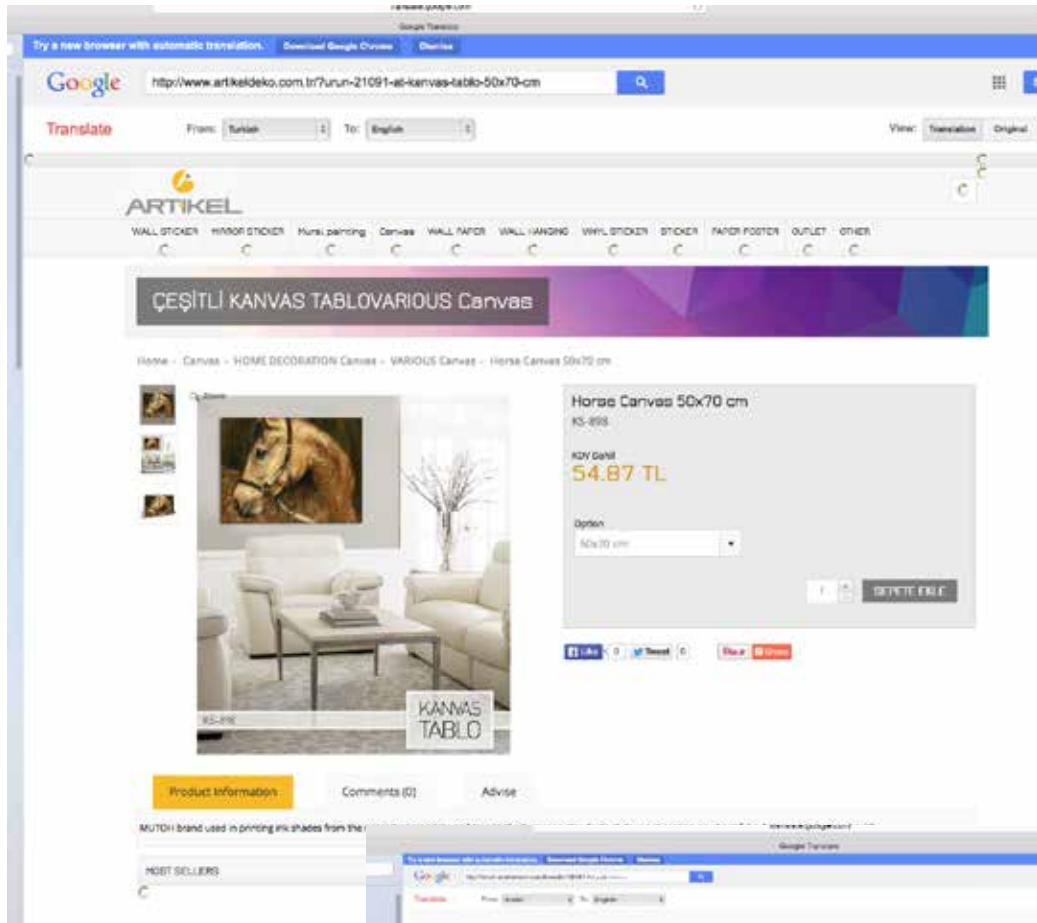
<https://en.support.wordpress.com/prevent-content-theft/>

Another useful site is 'whois' where you can look up domain and IP addresses. Always interesting to see where the sites are hosted (the still may be OWNED by foreign companies even if they are hosted on US servers.)

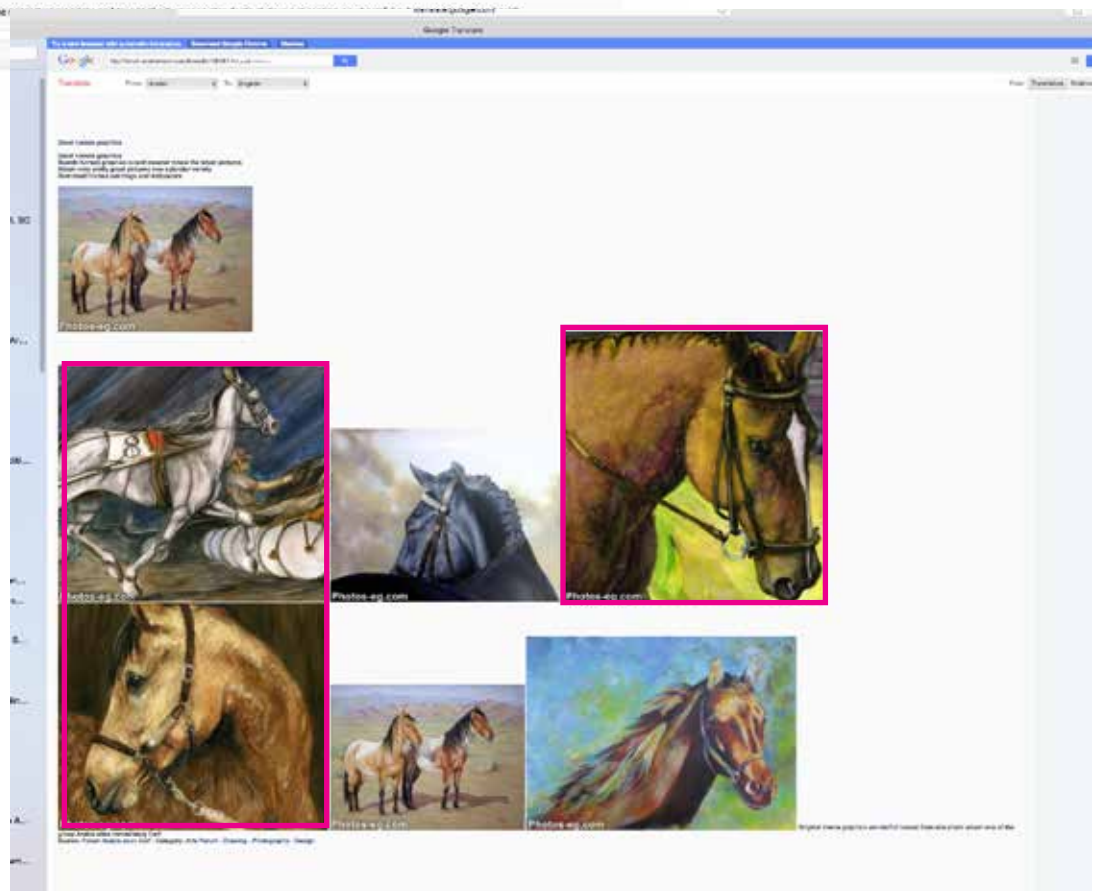
<http://whois.domaintools.com>

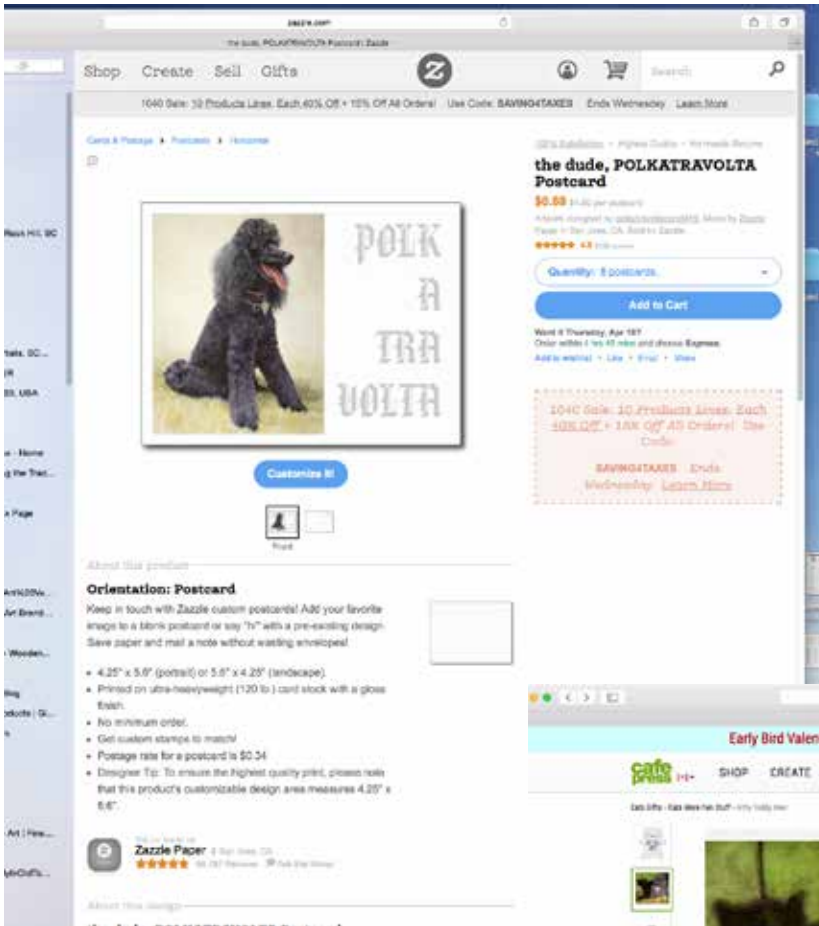
FAIR USE of images (or music, celebrities portraits, buildings, or anything that may be copyright or trademark protected) for educational use is generally OK. Posting images somewhere that would have an adverse impact on the copyright owners sales and market would not.

The following pages are some screen shots of my art images that I found during my searches.



The art to the left in the red boxes are my paintings.





Two more watercolors found being sold. All of the work (EXCEPT the horse paintings that are on Egyptian and Turkish sites) have been removed.

