

# COPYRIGHT QUICK GUIDE

## USING ARTISTIC WORKS ON WEBSITES

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Authors and creators of artistic works are provided with the exclusive right of communication [making available online]. Placing an artistic work onto a website is considered an exercise of the exclusive right of communication.

When considering the use of artistic works on a website that is open to the public, you must ensure that you are not exercising the exclusive right of communication on behalf of the copyright owner.

If you are not the creator or owner of the artistic work[s], you will need to obtain the permission of the copyright holder before the work is placed onto a website.

If you have purchased an artistic work this does not necessarily mean that you have purchased the right to communicate the work online. When an artistic work is purchased by a gallery or individual, exclusive rights of copyright do not transfer with the sale. When an artistic work is purchased the purchaser is usually only obtaining the right to hang/exhibit the work. The purchase of the work may or may not include the right to reproduce [copy, photography or photocopy], nor does the purchase include the right to place the work into a publication or onto the internet.

If you have purchased or undertaken a licence to use an artistic from an Image Stock or Image Bank collection you need to read the licence conditions carefully to ensure that your intended use of the work is permitted.

There are a range of 'free' image sites on the internet that advertise free use of images, be wary of using images found on 'free' sites, ensure you check the terms of use on the site. Creative Commons also provides a range of images for use under a Creative Commons licence. Creative Commons licences contain specific licence provisions that need to be adhered to as part of using the work. Ensure you read the full licence conditions for the Creative Commons licence. More information on Creative Commons and General Public Licences [GPL] can be found in the [Creative Commons/GPL Information Guide](#).

**More often than not permission is required to use artistic works on websites.**

### GETTING ADVICE

The [Copyright Management Service](http://www.rmit.edu.au/copyright) [http://www.rmit.edu.au/copyright] is a University Wide advice and permissions service for RMIT Staff. The Service provides copyright advice and permission seeking services to all RMIT Staff. [copyright@rmit.edu.au](mailto:copyright@rmit.edu.au)

The [Copyright Management Service](#) can assist with the permission seeking and can also help you decipher licence conditions.