

October 1, 2023

Dear Copyright Office:

I am writing to you in regards to the Study on Artificial Intelligence to share my concerns that the unauthorized usage of copyrighted works to train AI models constitutes copyright infringement. Furthermore, the onus for obtaining permission from an Artist to use their work should be on the AI industrial complex, NOT on the Artist. Artists must be consulted and compensated prior to usage of their work unauthorized by AI or any other industry. Artists should not have to 'OPT OUT', just as a car owner does not have to 'opt out' of ride-sharing to keep Uber from stealing their car and putting it into service. Permission should be obtained from Artists via 'OPT IN' only.

I am a Certified Medical Illustrator and have owned my own business for over 30 years. My specialty area is fetal development and women's health illustration, and I continue to re-license many of my 40 week pregnancy sets to various healthcare providers, pharmaceutical companies, and web developers. I would estimate that nearly 80% of my income has come from the re-licensing of these and other images for women's health. I have leased pregnancy images to several US State Departments of Health for WRTK publications, as well as to the Federal government for their website [www.womenshealth.gov](http://www.womenshealth.gov). These same sets of images have been leased to the states of Nebraska, Minnesota, Louisiana, Texas, Georgia, North Carolina, Arizona, and West Virginia.

The re-licensing of this set and of my other fetal development images has allowed me to provide for my family, even during the years when I was a single mother.

The protection of these images is of utmost importance to my livelihood, and I have struggled to fight the rampant piracy of them, especially by political groups. My contract with the state departments of health for the WRTK fetal set stipulates that in order to maintain neutrality, the images not be re-licensed to any political groups. This is crucial to maintaining the validity of these images and the trust I have built with my US government clients. Unauthorized digitization and manipulation by the AI industry will only compromise the anatomical accuracy and increase the chances for illegal political usage.

Thanks for listening.

Margaret 'Peg' Gerrity, Certified Medical Illustrator