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***Copy This Book, an artist’s guide to copyright***

*As artists grapple with the implications of evolving copyright law, Eric Schrijver’s first book, published by Onomatopee, is made available worldwide.*

*Copy This Book* is an artist’s guide to copyright, written for makers. At once practical and critical, the book guides readers through the concepts underlying copyright and how they apply in practice. It does so within one compact, contemporary and readable volume, packed with striking examples and boasting attractive, intuitive design.

*Copy This Book* provides answers to questions like: How do you obtain copyright? For what work? And for how long? How does copyright traverse mediums? And how do you go about integrating the work of others within your own?

*Copy This Book* also details the concepts of authorship and original creation that determine today’s legal systems. It provides the conceptual tools to participate in the contemporary debate about intellectual property.

As designer and critic Ellen Lupton writes: “This sharp and useful book shines a light on the rights of all artists to protect – and share – their work. Eric Schrijver has produced an essential guide for navigating the new Commons and the old laws of copyright control.”

[FOR NORTH AMERICA]

*Copy This Book* is distributed through D.A.P. and will be released in the US on April 23, 2019. From this date onwards the electronic version will be available directly through copy-this-book.eu.

[FOR OTHER REGIONS]

*Copy This Book* is available in selected bookstores worldwide and is distributed by Antenne Books (UK, IE, FR, Scandinavia), D.A.P. (US, CA), Perimeter (AU, NZ), Vice Versa (DE, CH, AT) and Centraal Boekhuis (NL, BE). The electronic version will be available directly through copy-this-book.eu, from April 23, 2019 onwards.

**Background**

Artists and designers today are increasingly confronted with legal issues. Legally speaking, popular artistic strategies such as citation and appropriation can amount to copyright infringement. Even well-established artists aren’t always aware of the implications of copyright, as was demonstrated in the high-profile case of Belgian painter Luc Tuymans, who infringed upon photographer Katrien van Giel’s copyright. Given the increasing ease with which images circulate, it becomes ever more necessary for artists to apprehend the legal status of their works. As new EU legislation pushes online platforms globally towards automated scanning of uploads (Article 13), artists are more likely to be impacted when their artistic creation oversteps legal boundaries.

Simultaneously, artists might find their own works re-used in ways they do not like. What are their rights if that happens? Which aspects of artists’ work are protected by copyright? The style, the ideas, the forms? And if there has indeed been a copyright infringement, what are the solutions, practically? *Copy This Book* explores the different ways artists and designers can resolve such conflicts, including options that are neither as costly nor as time consuming as law suits.

Another vital role of copyright for artists is the leverage it provides when negotiating with publishers, agents and other intermediaries. Having others represent you as an artist requires a copyright deal. *Copy This Book* provides a solid understanding of the different possible types of copyright licensing and assignment available.

Finally, now is also the time to grasp the politics of the copy. Within copyright, notions of authorship and creativity aren’t neutral: they serve to further a specific view on artistic creation. As the discussion of artistic privilege and cultural appropriation evolves, so too can artists’ understanding of the ethics of artistic copying.

Throughout its pages, *Copy This Book* features numerous concrete examples of artists and designers navigating the legal conditions of their field. If it recounts the legal wins and losses of creatives both known and unknown, it also shows how legal considerations can influence artistic processes and artworks themselves. You’ll find out how David Bowie altered his music to work around George Orwell’s estate, why Sherrie Levine chose Ansel Adams as a photographer to copy, and why the Wu-Tang Clan released an album in an edition of one.

**Target audience**

The target audience of *Copy This Book* are creatives who work with words and images. This includes visual artists, graphic designers, bloggers, software developers, video producers and journalists. It’s especially relevant for a new generation of makers who tend to work in different mediums and combine them.

Demanding no prior legal knowledge, *Copy This Book* fits just as well in undergraduate art program reading list as it does on the desks of professionals wanting to keep up with the legal questions affecting their practice and the field of culture at large.

**Design**

Thanks to graphic designer Loraine Furter’s singular approach to its design, *Copy This Book* sets itself apart from the existing literature on copyright. Loraine Furter and Eric Schrijver worked in close collaboration to develop a form that reflects the book’s combination of legal and creative elements. The book’s illustrations, images and fonts are all part of the digital commons, making the publication itself a case study in legally viable artistic re-use. The format is calculated so that a double page spread fits neatly into an A4 copy machine or scanner. Further, the book is printed with an additional (blue) spot colour to create a look and feel very different from traditional text books but which still survives black and white copy.

Furter’s design was inspired by the book’s subject-matter and is made using Free and Open Source software like Inkscape, Scribus and html2print – software that embodies an alternative, community-owned approach to copyright. Furter built upon the print edition for the digital edition; since the technology used to design the printed book was first developed for the web, both versions share similar digital codes.

**Biography**

Eric Schrijver is a Dutch interaction designer, artist and author. He was born in Amsterdam in 1984 and lives and works in Brussels. He runs a group blog called *I like tight pants and mathematics*, which aims to motivate designers and artists to get more involved in the world of computer programming. A former core member of the Open Source Publishing collective, he taught interaction design and coding in the Graphic Design department of KABK, The Hague, and has also taught workshops at schools around the world. *Copy This Book* is Schrijver’s first book.

Founded in 2006 and directed by Freek Lomme, Onomatopee Projects is a curatorially- and editorially-led public gallery and publisher particularly known for their self-initiated and transdisciplinary projects. They also host the projects of progressive individuals, as well as artist-run and institutional organisations.

Copy This Book, has been published with help from a grant from the Cultural Industries Fund NL (Netherlands).

**Website**

https://copy-this-book.eu/

**Social media**

Thanks for tagging @copythisbook when sharing this project on social media!

https://www.instagram.com/copythisbook/

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**Specifications**

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