

If everything is a remix, then what are the moral obligations and boundaries one must think about when adapting work? Moral questions like this help us understand the many factors that go into considering the answer. To start, let's address the quick "capitalism bad" angle when considering intellectual property. Kirby Ferguson does a good job of noting that copies will always have the upper hand against originals in the marketplace since copies do not need to worry about R&D costs. Here we see capitalism stifling innovation by putting human advancement behind a paywall. This can lead to issues such as companies charging absurd amounts with insulin when we know for a god damn fact that Sir Fredrick G Banting sold the patent for one dollar in an effort to make it universally accessible. While I shed few tears for the likes of large corporations and their intellectual property (when Mickey goes public domain in 2024, I'm going to make so much weird shit with him), we must still be careful with how things are remixed in an altruistic sense.

Beyond the realm of financial rewards, there are valid considerations to remixing in the name of art because these remixes don't always end up positively. In the 2010's, we saw a rise in white supremacist activity in North America leading to things like the Charlottesville Nazi rally, a push against the teaching of racial history, and a former reality TV star getting access to nuclear codes. One image that was used widely as a means of dog whistling was the image of a cartoon frog names Pepe. Despite it's widespread use as a symbol of Fascism, Pepe's creator never intended it to be viewed this way. Matt Furie created Pepe the Frog for his zine *Boy's Club* where the iconic character spent his time hanging out with friends, getting high, and just being a generally chill dude. I saw Furie speak at the XOXO conference in Portland one year and he talked about the pain of being associated with something he never dreamed of. This analogy is something I hold onto because despite my belief that information and creation should be open and accessible to all, it serves as a reminder that remixing can lead to any outcome; even outcomes I disagree with.