



Intellectual
Property
Of ice

CATHERINE ROSS

Catherine Ross studied Fine Art Painting and graduated from Gray's School of Art with a BA First Class Honours in 2014 and won the BP fine art award in 2014. Catherine realises the importance of copyright to protect her paintings and sculptures.



Q & A

The IPO caught up with Catherine and asked her some questions about her work.

What inspires your paintings and sculptures?

My work encompasses the idea of 'North'. The paintings and models I create relate to crossovers or connections between that which is imagined and real. They reference thoughts of my childhood in Northern Canada.

I have mixed my own visions and direct experiences to do with 'the North'; and so, I have grown my idea of 'North'.

You graduated from Gray's School of Art in 2014. Were you taught about copyright on your course?

I mostly learned about copyright protection and plagiarism through the written part of the fine art course in preparation for my final year's dissertation.

On your website you make it clear your paintings can't be reproduced without permission and mark your work with the copyright symbol. Why is this important to you?

The statement "All images © copyright Catherine Ross. No unauthorised reproductions allowed" appears at the foot of each page on my website which contain images of my work.

“My fine art works have been created after years of commitment, study and training.”



Above - "Sketchbook"
Lower - "Bound"

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“**In the past I definitely underestimated online exposure and its effectiveness in my field**”

What are your top tips for artists' just starting university? How can they get noticed?

When I started art school, I had a good idea of what sort of artist I wanted to be and what form my work would take. As I worked through my course in painting I realised that by thinking this way I would only limit myself. What I am capable of in myself and my work as an artist is unknown until I have explored and tested things out as I go.

In the past I definitely underestimated online exposure and its effectiveness in my field. I have become more well-known and sold work overseas since setting up my website and artist pages on social media.

What's next for you?

I have recently become an Artist Member of Visual Artist Unit Collective (VAU www.vau.org.uk.) VAU was set up by 8 graduates from Grays School of Art and Duncan of Jordanstone in 2014. VAU commits itself to the dual aims of supporting emerging artists based in Scotland and improving public engagement and access to contemporary art for the wider community.

My solo exhibition will show at Newave Gallery, Aberdeen, 27th June - 21st July 2015.

See more of Catherine's work at www.catherinerosspainter.com

What the IPO says:

Catherine's artworks are her own intellectual creations, drawing on her education, her training and her own personal qualities. Both her paintings and sculptures have copyright protection as original artistic works.

Copyright arises automatically from the moment a work is created and expires 70 years after the death of the creator. This means that during her lifetime Catherine has exclusive rights over her artistic works. However, she may choose to sell or assign her rights to someone else, or she may grant others a licence to use her works.

Even if someone were to purchase one of Catherine's paintings, they would not be allowed to make copies of it without her permission. Just because somebody owns an artwork does not mean that they own the copyright in that work.

Catherine also uses social media channels to promote herself. She makes clear to third parties that copyright is in force and that she is the copyright owner by including a statement on her website.

Whilst this is not mandatory, it can help to deter people from using copyright works without permission.

Catherine also chooses to display only low resolution copies of her work online so that people are unable to make good quality reproductions.