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Addendum: Invoking Fair Use for Third-Party Materials—Making Art

CAA will not require that you obtain permissions for the use of images and other third-party works in your Contribution if you determine, in good faith, that your use of such third-party works is a fair use under US copyright law. In making that determination, you should review the PDF of CAA's *Code of Best Practices in Fair Use for the Visual Arts*, which was sent to you when your Contribution was accepted for publication. You can also read and download the Code online at www.collegeart.org/fair-use/best-practices. For discussion of the fair use doctrine of US copyright law, please see pp. 14–17 of the Code. A useful list of Frequently Asked Questions regarding the Code and the fair use doctrine can be found at www.collegeart.org/fair-use/faq.

Fair use can be applied only to images and other third-party materials to which the user has access. Sometimes, however, permission must be sought because a sole source controls an object or image of it, even when the underlying work itself is in the public domain. Because demands for permission fees in this context are not based on copyright, fair use cannot be invoked to avoid paying such fees.

Works in the public domain may be used without obtaining permissions. Even if the work itself is in the public domain, however, photographers of three-dimensional artworks (such as sculpture, architecture, or performance) or the organizations that employ them may hold rights in their photographs, independently of whether the artwork itself is in copyright.

The Code provides that artists may invoke fair use to incorporate copyrighted material into new artworks in any medium, subject to certain limitations. For a summary of the limitations, see p.11 of the Code.

To aid you in making a determination as to whether your use of third-party works is a fair use, CAA is suggesting that you consider the following questions. These are not, however, a substitute for the requirement that you review the Code and the Frequently Asked Questions.

Does your use of existing copyrighted material generate new artistic meaning? A change of medium, without more, may not meet this standard.

Does the artistic objective of your work justify your use of the third-party work, whether in part or whole? Can you articulate your rationale for repurposing copyrighted material?

Do you suggest that the elements of the third-party work incorporated into your work are original to you? If so, is this integral to the meaning of the new work?

Do you cite the source of the copied work, whether in the new work or elsewhere (by means such as labeling or embedding)? If not, can you articulate an aesthetic basis for not citing the source?