

Appropriation Art

Appropriation can be said; to be one of the most heavily discussed mediums within the artist community; due to the legalities and taboos of modern society. Appropriation art is the act of taking someone else's work without their consent and adapting it to suit the artist's various needs. The medium could be said to be on the same level as parody, although the term parody implies that there must be humor in work that is generated. Without humor or maybe a social commentary, the work will either be deemed as appropriation art or copyright. The problem that lies here is what counts as appropriation. All designers have to get their inspiration from somewhere and all knowledge must have been tangible at some point in time. We learn, we develop and we create; this is the cycle of man. Originality in many ways is non-existent, a myth created by man's need to explain and understand reality. This brings into question what is original content?

Well by definition art has to be original content, anything that expresses thought and emotions of an individual; be it a thousand year old cave painting or a fingerprint in dried paint. So originality is present, but thought is not. Any act is original, but the thought portaging to the act isn't. The primal motive in many ways is the true originality. So in a way...

Copyright is about the protection of a thought or idea, not the physical product. While appropriation is the creation, of original content from unoriginal source material. Even though this is perfectly legal and seen as its own medium, many artists dislike the idea of appropriation; as it can easily violate their rights to their original work.