

BURRA REGIONAL ART GALLERY

Copyright

Be aware of the copyright laws and realise that penalties for failing to adhere to these laws can have extremely severe consequences if brought to court.

- As a gallery displaying art for public viewing and sale it is our duty to ensure that copyright laws are enforced. It is in no way meant to criticise anyone's artistic ability. Most galleries will now not accept work that is not original uncopied work. Copying from photographs, if they have been taken by you is not a problem; however the problem arises when you use someone else's images from photographs, magazines, calendars, internet, videos etc.
- Copyright legally belongs to the artist or photographer from the moment of creation. The absence of a copyright notice on a photograph doesn't mean copyright doesn't apply.
- In Australia all artworks, including photographs, are automatically protected by copyright once they are created and put into "material form."
- There is no rule allowing you to copy artworks without permission if you make a certain number of changes, or change a certain percentage.
- Copyright protection lasts 70 years after the end of the year of the creator's death or 70 years from the end of the year the material was first made public: (50 years for material made for, or published by a Commonwealth or State government department or agency.)
- Most photographs taken before 1955 are now in the public domain, under the free trade agreement with USA. If copyright had expired by 1 January 2005 it stays expired and can be used under Australian law. Please check the copyright council website to see what is in the public domain.
- If copying from the Internet or using clip art you must read the terms and conditions carefully, as the licences may limit ways in which images can be used. If permission or purchase of an image has occurred please add this information to the exhibitor slip attached to the bottom right hand corner of your art work. This is also applicable if you seek permission, or purchase of an image out of a magazine, calendar etc. as this must be acknowledged on the catalogue under the name of the artist.
- Copyright does not protect an idea or concept, style or technique, rather, copyright protects the way the idea is expressed as a drawing or other visual representation, such as a painting, sculpture or work of artistic craftsmanship.

The best way to avoid being in breach of copyright is to take your own photographs!