What makes an art original or non original?

Every artist brings to the canvas or paper his or her own unique interpretation and execution of the subject, therefore, it is an "original" view, and the art created from that view is therefore, original. The only "non-original" art is when an artist deliberately copies another's art creation, whether painting, drawing or photograph.

Original means the artist made it. It was the first of its kind

Can a great artist copy another artist's work and make it an original?

Yes.

When this happens, it's described as being after. When I painted a copy of a Watteau for my own pleasure of exploring his techniques in lucidity I signed it Jacquelyn McBain after Watteau. If I'd signed it with the original artist's name

Can I use someone else's work as a reference for painting?

When you use someone else's work in a full-scale painting, as the background of a collage, etc., that is not using it to gain knowledge. There are many ways that you can find great images to legally use as a reference for your paintings. First of all, it's best to err on the side of caution and ask before you copy a photo.

If you're truly using someone else's photos or illustrations as a reference, you're collecting information and applying it to your painting. It's exactly like applying your knowledge of color mixing. When you use someone else's work in a full-scale painting, as the background of a collage, etc., that is not using it to gain knowledge.

Should I cite an artist who copied another artist's work?

Artists have copied other artists work over the years as an exercise to understand the process and as practice, and that is perfectly acceptable. If you are displaying a piece you created based on another piece, cite the original piece and artist.

What happens if you copy someone else's art?

If you copy a piece of art with the intention of claiming someone else's art as your own or profiting off another artist's work: DON'T. Copying is a part of almost every artist's evolution.

Purpose of new category in hanging art:

With the advent of new technology in art, a new category is requested to make all art shows/judging equal, within categories and divisions, specifically regarding judging on an equal playing field. This is recommended, just as photographs & digitally altered photos are divided during art shows.

Original Art definition:

An art piece created by your own innate talents and creativity.

No technical aides were used in the creation, to alter or enhance your own piece during the process of the creation, with respect to hand drawings or rendering, during its creation of a final piece.

Reference photos or other's art may be used, as visual aides in your piece, as reference only. Permission from the original owner of a photo or other art piece(s) must be asked and respected.

Enhanced Art (suggested new category):

Art created with or by technical assistance created wholly or with software, ie: Photoshop, or other art enhancing software, to alter your own art or art created completely by software, changing/altering the art product. This will now no longer be categorized as "Original" art but will be consider under "Enhanced Art" category.

Projection or tracing of any image onto your canvas will be under the Enhanced Art category.

Use of photos, paper images, added pieces of other's or your art, onto the canvas, within your final art piece, (use of technology) within the final piece. (decoupage) will be Enhanced Art category.

Giclee: a photo reproduction, digitally printed on canvas will be hung in the photograph section of the gallery.