Art Theft Prevention Tips

There are two main ways to prevent your art from being stolen. The first is to put a watermark on your image. This is a slightly transparent name written on a piece. However, watermarks sometimes distract your audience from your art. The best thing to do in this case is to make sure that the mark subtle, preferably in a corner. To make a watermark, create a layer above your image and write your name. Then, set it to a low opacity, like 15%. In my case, I put my name at the bottom using some of the more prominent colors in the piece.

The other way is to place a disclaimer on your site about reproducing your work. This is not as effective as a watermark, but it lets people know that if they see your work elsewhere, it was posted without permission. Here is my disclaimer, for your reference.

"Please do not repost any of my art unsourced to any other blogs. A share is preferable, because it not only gives the name of the artist, but the original post gets notes instead of the repost. Please get her permission before using any of her art pieces in media such as videos, collaborations, wikis, or blog backgrounds."

What if you find unsourced artwork?

Sourcing images is pretty simple. If you run across an unsourced image on the internet, here's what to do:

- **Right click on the offending image and copy the address.**
- **Input the address into Google and press enter**
- **Select "Search by image"**
- **Scroll until you find where the image was originally posted**

When finding the source, beware of sites that mainly post images. These sites often take pictures from other sites and post it on their own without giving credit! Here are some examples:

- **weheartit.com**
- **funnyjunk.com**
- **reddit.com**