

## FCA - Source Imagery

(Rules on source imagery can be found in the Federation of Canadian Artists' Policy Manual, [7.1.8., p.14] last updated May 31<sup>st</sup> 2021 at this address <https://artists.ca/content/item/download/6303/119>)

To begin with, current policy does allow artists to use images provided to them by an amateur photographer with their express consent.

However, it is still recommended that you advise your Affiliates to use their own source images wherever possible to avoid any chance of being pulled from an exhibition, as the current definition of who is or who isn't an amateur photographer is very much on a case by case basis with the Standards Committee.

If a perceived infraction is brought to the attention of the committee, the submitting artist will be asked to provide proof of express consent and the contact information of the photographer to prove they have had the proper permission. It is all very messy and uncomfortable and a process that can be avoided if you are using your own source material.

"But what if I wanted to paint a dodo?" - you ask (or something equally as inaccessible but perhaps less obscure).

By all means, paint a dodo using any source material you like, just please, we ask that you don't submit it to a juried Federation exhibition.

We are not here to put limits on what artists can or cannot paint in their everyday practice. When we put a restriction like this, that gets in the way of submitting, many artists take it as a slight against their art and we're not saying that your dodo from a different source isn't gorgeous, it's just simply not something we will exhibit.

The rationale here being that, when taking a photograph, a lot of the artistic decision-making has already been made by the photographer. Composition and lighting in particular, as you know, are important artistic decisions. The Standards Committee wants to see that Federation artists have strong competency in these aspects, by creating and using their own source material, being present in the creative process from beginning to end.

Hopefully, this helps clear things up a little and provides you with the information you need for your Chapter Affiliates. If you need further clarification or have follow-up questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

With regards,

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