BEYOND COLLECTING? THE CONSTRUCTION OF ARTISTIC LEGACIES

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Marcel Duchamp (1887-1968)

« Etant donnés : 1) La chute d'eau 2) le gaz d'éclairage » (1946-66, vue d'ensemble, Velour, bois, cuir sur armature de métal, brindilles, verre, plexiglass, bec de gaz, 242,5 X 177,8 X 124,5 cm)

"Let us consider two important factors, the two poles of the creation of art: the artist on the one hand, and on the other the spectator who later becomes the posterity."

Marcel Duchamp

artistic intentions

- created as primary artwork or
- created as secondary record of a performance-related artwork
- intended to be seen by
 - a unique audience
 - limited defined audiences
 - unlimited undefined audiences
- intended for physical ownership by collectors of
 - the unique master
 - a limited edition of copies of masters
 - an unlimited edition of copies of masters
- intentions should be clarified before showing
- intentions should be clarified before transferring physical ownership
- plans should be made for viewing and/or transferring physical ownership:
 - legal considerations
 - business considerations
 - posterity considerations

challenges

- difficult challenges arise on an increasingly international scale for:
 - artists seeking legal and business frameworks to support
 - creation of audiovisual works
 - dissemination of audiovisual works
 - communication and recognition of audiovisual works
 - public and private collectors/purchasers
 - curators and facilitators/producers
 - art lawyers advising and assisting
- two main areas of law for consideration by artists, agents/dealers,
 collectors/purchasers, commissioners, curators and other facilitators/producers:
 - intellectual property
 - contract

intellectual property

- international and national IP laws recognise creative works through:
 - categories
 - techniques
- IP laws require creative works to be in a fixed form: film category
- copyright in film
- performers' rights in film

film copyright

- film includes sounds and soundtrack
- laws automatically give authors of film exclusive rights to prevent or authorise:
 - copying
 - public communication
 - leasing
 - altering/amending/changing
 - omission of authorship credit
 - false authorship attribution
- author is the principal director
- authors' rights last for:
 - at least 50 years *pma* in most countries
 - 70 years *pma* in EEA & USA & Singapore
- rights may be used to grant licences to others to copy/show/lease/disseminated/distribute
- □ rights may be transferred via last will/testament or via contract
- copyright protects detailed audiovisual expressions manifest in a work
- not ideas behind or conveyed by its audiovisual expressions
- the 'idea/expression dichotomy'

performers rights

- performers of works (who might not be, but usually are, also the creators/authors) automatically acquire exclusive 'performers rights' via international IP laws:
 - to authorise recording of their live performance (non-property rights) and
 - to make and distribute, rent and loan, copies of such recordings (property rights)
- performers rights generally last for 50 years from the date the recording of the performance was first released: first publication notice at end of film credits
- artist/authors using performers: contracts
- normal practice for professional performers in conventional art forms (music, dance, film, theatre) to give prior authorisation of live recordings of their performances through written contracts with would-be producers
- in this way, they negotiate and agree:
 - the nature and content of the recording itself
 - their performance fee
 - their share of economic rewards (royalties) that may be earned by future commercial showings or broadcasts or other commercial communication of authorised recordings
 - extemporary/ephemeral live performances:
 - e.g. Tino Seghal
 - control of bootleg recordings by venues
 - contracts with venues for invigilation/prevention

contracts

- IP rights ownership can be
 - transferred to others to own
 - used to grant licences to others to use
 - with/out ownership of a physical/digital object holding audiovisual data
 - restricted by specific terms and conditions: time & territory limits
 - a source of capital or income
- ownership of a physical/digital object holding audiovisual data can be
 - transferred to others to own
 - copied and copies transferred to others to own
 - with/out IP rights ownership or licence to use
 - restricted by specific terms and conditions
 - a source of capital or income
- limits of contracts
 - only enforceable by and against the parties to it
 - ¹ 3rd parties who make unauthorised use of the work violate IP rights ownership law

private collector: first/primary sale

- written contract essential to specify precisely
 - what audiovisual data has been physically/digitally acquired
 - artist's/sellers' IP rights: no copying
 - IP licence granted to use/show/communicate the work only in private
 - capital payment to artist/seller for acquisition and private showing
- authenticity certificate with restricted licence warning: for resale
- notices embedded within work:
 - viewer/user warning before content rolls
 - copyright notice as last credit

public collector: first/primary sale

- written contract essential to specify precisely
 - what audiovisual data has been physically/digitally acquired
 - artist's/sellers' IP rights: no copying; but perhaps archival copying
 - IP licence granted to use/show/communicate the work in public for noncommercial purposes
 - IP licence granted to use/show/communicate the work in public for commercial purposes with royalty payment to artist
 - capital payment to artist/seller for acquisition and licence to show
- authenticity certificate with restricted licence warning: not for resale
- notices embedded within work:
 - viewer/user warning before content rolls
 - copyright notice as last credit

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film & television industry

- legal and business film industry skills and techniques
 - screenplay ©
 - confidential investment discussions: NDAs
 - establish legal entity to produce and own the project: territories
- production contracts for
 - investors and returns on investment
 - directing
 - editorial control
 - executive production and crew
 - post-production
 - distribution
 - showing
 - income sharing
- economics
 - primary release: theatrical/broadcast/streaming
 - secondary market: streaming/download/physical format
 - related merchandising
- CONTRAST FINE ART ECOSYSTEM:
 - showing primarily at fine art venues; and/or
 - selling limited editions and licensed showings primarily to fine art collectors

case study: iain forsyth & jane pollard

- UK-based artist partnership: 20 years
- http://www.iainandjane.com
- performance-related works:
 - live ephemeral events
 - no recording/documentation
- video artworks:
 - non-commercial public-facing gallery showings
 - commercial gallery private showings
 - sale and use of limited editions: private and public collectors
- feature film project



A ROCK 'N' ROLL SUICIDE live performance 2 hours (1998)



WALKING OVER ACCONCI (MISDIRECTED REPROACHES) production still

single channel 16:9 hd video with sound. 15 minutes (2008)

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