

Hannah Franklin

CINE-GT.1804: Copyright, Legal Issues, and Policy

Written Assignment 1 – Copyright Registration

9/17/15

Part I- Description of Original Work

My work is entitled *Original No. 1* and the medium is acrylic paint on a 12 inch by 16 inch canvas. The canvas is oriented vertically, with a background painted completely white. The foreground consists of 15 illustrations of the copyright symbol “©”, as distinct from its other designations (e.g. “Copyright”, “Copyr.”). The fifteen symbols are depicted in three columns and five rows. Each circular symbol is two inches in diameter, all separated by one inch both vertically and horizontally. The copyright symbols are grouped by column, as each column has the same colored symbols. The symbols in the left-hand column are thinly outlined with black paint. The exposed white background fills in both the empty space inside the “c” and the empty circular band around the “c”, created by two concentric black rings. This gives the impression that the copyright symbols in the left column are “written” in white, while still against a white background. The symbols in the middle column are also outlined in black, but the features (the “c” and its surrounding band) are filled in with gray paint. The last column consists of copyright symbols painted only with black paint. Transitioning the copyright symbol groupings from white to black visually represents the ever growing power of Copyright Law; since its inception, Copyright Law has encompassed more works and for longer terms. The use of black, white, and gray also symbolizes the varying degree of definiteness in copyright eligibility for artistic works. Lastly, although the symbols have specific measurements to create uniformity, brushstrokes were made visible to remind the viewer that works protected by that symbol are first created by original thoughts and processes of individual artists.

This work could be characterized as Pop art because of its simplistic and

graphic nature, but is not derivative of any single work. Although I did not create the copyright symbol, it is ineligible for copyright protection and is in the public domain. My specific choices in size, texture, color, and layout are all original. I am the sole author of all aspects of this work except for the copyright symbol itself, which was authored by the Federal Government. This work has only been viewed by me (the artist) and my household, and has not been published.