



1 **COMPLAINT FOR COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT**

2 Plaintiff, JONAS JÖDICKE (“Jödicke” or “Plaintiff”), brings this complaint in  
3 the United States District Court for the Central District of California against AARON  
4 CARTER (“Carter” or “Defendant”), alleging as follows:

5 **PARTIES**

- 6 1. Plaintiff is a digital artist specializing in majestic animals and magical scenes.  
7 Plaintiff’s work has been licensed and published throughout the world. A partial  
8 client list includes: Ravensburger, Walmart, Adobe, Winsor & Newton, Chameleon  
9 Art products, Daniel Wellington, Diamond Art Club, and Electrothreads. Plaintiff  
10 resides Berlin, Germany.
- 11 2. On information and belief, Carter is a rapper, songwriter, actor, dancer, and record  
12 producer. Carter resides at 42236 Blueflax Avenue, Lancaster, California, 93536.  
13 Carter’s business office is 8549 Wilshire Boulevard, #1076, Beverly Hills,  
14 California, 90211

15 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

- 16 3. This is a civil action seeking damages for copyright infringement under the  
17 copyright laws of the United States (17 U.S.C. § 101 et seq.).
- 18 4. This Court has jurisdiction under 17 U.S.C. § 101 et seq.; 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (federal  
19 question); and 28 U.S.C. § 1338(a) (copyright).
- 20 5. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant, and venue in this District is  
21 proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), because the events giving rise to the claims  
22 occurred in this district, Defendant engaged in infringement in this district,  
23 Defendant resides in this district, and Defendant is subject to personal jurisdiction in  
24 this district.
- 25 6. This Court also has personal jurisdiction over Defendant, and venue in this District  
26 is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1400(a).
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**FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS COMMON TO ALL CLAIMS**

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- 2 7. Plaintiff created the illustration, “Brotherhood” (“Copyrighted Illustration”) on
- 3 September 1, 2015. [Exhibit 1]. Plaintiff created Copyrighted Illustration in
- 4 approximately twelve (12) hours using Photoshop CC on a Wacom tablet.
- 5 8. On September 5, 2015, Plaintiff posted Copyrighted Illustration to
- 6 [www.instagram.com/p/7QnDHxIOVf](http://www.instagram.com/p/7QnDHxIOVf) (Last visited April 1, 2020). [Exhibit 2].
- 7 9. Plaintiff posted Copyrighted Illustration with the following copyright information:
- 8 © FACEBOOK.COM/JOJOEART. [Exhibit 3].
- 9 10. On January 17, 2020, Defendant copied and posted Copyrighted Illustration to the
- 10 Carter’s Twitter feed, [www.twitter.com/aaroncarter](http://www.twitter.com/aaroncarter) (Last visited April 1, 2020).
- 11 [Exhibit 4].
- 12 11. Defendant used Copyrighted Illustration to advertise the sale of hoodies available on
- 13 [www.aaroncarter.com](http://www.aaroncarter.com). [Exhibit 4].
- 14 12. Carter has 620,000 followers to his Twitter feed. [Exhibit 5].
- 15 13. On January 18, 2020, Plaintiff notified Carter of the unlicensed use of Copyrighted
- 16 Illustration. [Exhibit 6].
- 17 14. On January 18, 2020, Carter responded by refusing to remove Copyrighted
- 18 Illustration from his Twitter feed. [Exhibit 7].
- 19 15. Plaintiff registered Copyrighted Illustration with the United States Copyright Office
- 20 on February 26, 2020 (Registration No.: VA 2-196-134). [Exhibit 8].
- 21 16. On March 20, 2020, Defendant copied and posted Copyrighted Illustration to
- 22 Carter’s Twitter feed, [www.twitter.com/aaroncarter](http://www.twitter.com/aaroncarter). [Exhibit 9].
- 23 17. Defendant used Copyrighted Illustration as the profile image for Carter’s Twitter
- 24 feed. [Exhibit 9].
- 25 18. In all instances described above, Defendant copied and posted Copyrighted
- 26 Illustration without license nor permission from Plaintiff.
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**COUNT I: INFRINGEMENT OF COPYRIGHT PURSUANT TO 17 U.S.C. § 101**

**ET SEQ.**

19. Plaintiff incorporates herein by this reference each and every allegation contained in each paragraph above.

20. Plaintiff is, and at all relevant times has been, the copyright owner or licensee of exclusive rights under United States copyright with respect to Copyrighted Illustration, which is the subject of a valid and complete Certificate of Copyright Registration by the Register of Copyrights.

21. Among the exclusive rights granted to each Plaintiff under the Copyright Act are the exclusive rights to reproduce and distribute Copyrighted Illustration to the public.

22. Plaintiff is informed and believes Defendant, without the permission or consent of Plaintiff, copied and used Copyrighted Illustration on Carter’s Twitter feed, [www.twitter.com/aaroncarter](http://www.twitter.com/aaroncarter). In doing so, Defendant violated Plaintiff’s exclusive rights of reproduction and distribution. Defendant’s actions constitute infringement of Plaintiff’s copyright and exclusive rights under copyright.

23. Plaintiff is informed and believes that the foregoing act of infringement was willful and intentional, in disregard of and with indifference to the rights of Plaintiff.

24. As a result of Defendant’s infringement of Plaintiff’s copyright and exclusive rights under copyright, Plaintiff is entitled to actual and statutory damages, including any profits realized by Defendant attributable to the infringement, pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504 for Defendant’s infringement of Copyrighted Illustration.

**COUNT II: CONTRIBUTORY INFRINGEMENT**

25. Plaintiff is informed and believes that Defendant, without the permission or consent of Plaintiff, knowingly made available Copyrighted Illustration to third party publishers by posting active links to social media companies immediately adjacent to Copyrighted Illustration.

26. Plaintiff is informed and believes that Defendant, without the permission or consent of Plaintiff, had knowledge or reason to know of such contributory infringement.

1 27. As a result of Defendant’s actions, Plaintiff is entitled to actual damages or such  
2 other and further relief as is just and proper.

3 **COUNT III: REMOVAL AND ALTERATION OF INTEGRITY OF**  
4 **COPYRIGHT MANAGEMENT INFORMATION PURSUANT TO 17 U.S.C. §**  
5 **1202**

6 28. Plaintiff is informed and believes that Defendant, without the permission or consent  
7 of Plaintiff, knowingly and with the intent to conceal infringement, intentionally  
8 removed the copyright management information from Plaintiff’s Copyrighted  
9 Illustration before displaying Copyrighted Illustration on PRP’s commercial  
10 website, [www.twitter.com/aaroncarter](http://www.twitter.com/aaroncarter). In doing so, Defendant violated 17 U.S.C. §  
11 1202(a)(1) and (b)(1).

12 29. As a result of Defendant’s actions, Plaintiff is entitled to actual damages or statutory  
13 damages pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 1203(c). Plaintiff is further entitled to their  
14 attorneys’ fees and costs pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 1203(b)(5).

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment against Defendant as follows:

- A. Declaring that Defendants’ unauthorized conduct violates Plaintiff’s rights under the Federal Copyright Act;
- B. Immediately and permanently enjoining Defendant, their officers, directors, agents, servants, employees, representatives, attorneys, related companies, successors, assigns, and all others in active concert or participation with them from copying and republishing Plaintiff’s Copyrighted Illustration without consent or otherwise infringing Plaintiff’s copyright or other rights in any manner;
- C. Ordering Defendant to account to Plaintiff for all gains, profits, and advantages derived by Defendant by their infringement of Plaintiff’s copyright or such damages as are proper, and since Defendant intentionally infringed Plaintiff’s copyright, for the maximum allowable statutory damages for each violation;
- D. Awarding Plaintiff actual and/or statutory damages for Defendant’s copyright infringement in an amount to be determined at trial;
- E. Awarding Plaintiff his costs, reasonable attorneys’ fees, and disbursements in this action, pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 505, 17 U.S.C. § 1203(b)(3), and § 1203(b)(5); and
- F. Awarding Plaintiff such other and further relief as is just and proper.

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**JURY DEMAND**

Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury on all claims for which there is a right to jury trial.

Dated: August 31, 2020

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/s/ Michael R. Reese  
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- and -

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*Counsel for Plaintiff*

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EXHIBIT 1





EXHIBIT 2

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https://www.instagram.com/p/7QnDxIOVf/

Instagram Search

jojoesart • Follow

jojoesart • My newest picture "Brotherhood". Signed prints available in my etsy shop (link on my profile page). Hope you like it <3 #art #equality #lion #inspiring #love #symbolsofliferies

236w

artaccountforsale Amazing! 163w 1 like Reply

colourful.janine Sorry fürs like-spammen, aber deine Bilder sind sehr Wahnsinn! 🤔🤔🤔

5,748 likes

SEPTEMBER 5, 2015

Add a comment... Post

More posts from jojoesart

NETFLIX XOOMSDAY PREPPERS

L.O.L. these preppers are crazy!

BREAKING

WILLY WILLY

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EXHIBIT 3



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EXHIBIT 4

The image is a screenshot of a Twitter post. At the top, the navigation bar shows 'Home' and 'Moments' on the left, and 'Search Twitter' and 'Have an account? Log in' on the right. The main content is a tweet from Aaron Carter (@aaroncarter) posted on January 17, 2020, at 2:29 PM. The tweet text reads: 'two lions at war can reach an understanding. I have my lions den, you have yours. [aaroncarter.com](http://aaroncarter.com) Hoodies are BACK UP!!! all un received orders contact Dawn in my contacts on my website. you can reach me directly too. xo'. Below the text is a square image of two lions facing each other in a dark setting. The tweet has 32 retweets and 141 likes. Below the tweet are two replies. The first reply is from Sharon Frost (@belishar) 7 hours ago, stating 'The artist is @JoJoesArt in case you didn't realise!' with 2 replies, 1 retweet, and 133 likes. The second reply is from Pinkcupcake5472 (@Pinkcupcake5472) 6 hours ago, saying 'Thank you!!! I was just trying to figure out who he stole this from. At least give credit where credit is due. If someone used your songs or brand in some way, you KNOW you & #lmg would come for them. #hypocrite' with 1 reply and 47 likes. On the left side of the screenshot, a portion of Aaron Carter's profile is visible, including his profile picture (a lion's face), name 'Aaron Carter', handle '@aaroncarter', bio 'The Black Web', website 'aaroncarter.com', and 'Joined April 2009'. At the bottom right of the screenshot, there is a footer with copyright information: '© 2020 Twitter About Help Center Terms Privacy policy Cookies Ads info'.

EXHIBIT 5

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Search Twitter



Follow

**Aaroncarter** ✓

@aaroncarter

The Black Web

[aaroncarter.com](#) Born December 7 Joined April 2009

200.3K Following 621.1K Followers

Tweets

Tweets & replies

Media

Likes

▶ Deleted Tweet

EXHIBIT 6

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EXHIBIT 7

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01:57

**Aaron Carter**  
8,936 Tweets

Tweets   Tweets & replies   Media   Likes

7   4   24

**Aaron Carter** @aaroncarter · 23m  
 you should've taken it as a compliment  
 dick a fan of MINE sent this to me. oh  
 here they go again, the answer is No this  
 image has been made public and im  
 using it to promote my clothing line  
[aaroncarter.com](http://aaroncarter.com) guess I'll see you in  
 small claims court FUCKERY

**Jonas Jödicke** @JoJoes... · 25m  
 Hey @aaroncarter .. You are using  
 my artwork to promote your  
 merchandise. I have not given you  
 permission to do so. My art is being  
 commercially exploited by people o...  
[Show this thread](#)

18   6   20

**Aaron Carter** @aaroncarter · 25m  
 I'm actually reading tweets about  
 being a pedophile, a scam artist,

EXHIBIT 8

Certificate of Registration



This Certificate issued under the seal of the Copyright Office in accordance with title 17, *United States Code*, attests that registration has been made for the work identified below. The information on this certificate has been made a part of the Copyright Office records.



*Maia Stroy*  
Acting United States Register of Copyrights and Director

**Registration Number**  
**VA 2-196-134**  
**Effective Date of Registration:**  
February 26, 2020  
**Registration Decision Date:**  
March 23, 2020

**Copyright Registration for One Work by One Author**  
Registration issued pursuant to 37 CFR §202.3

**Title** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title of Work:** Brotherhood

**Completion/Publication** \_\_\_\_\_

**Year of Completion:** 2015  
**Date of 1st Publication:** September 05, 2015  
**Nation of 1st Publication:** Germany

**Author** \_\_\_\_\_

- Author:** Jonas Jodicke  
**Author Created:** Illustration  
**Domiciled in:** Germany  
**Year Born:** 1994

**Copyright Claimant** \_\_\_\_\_

**Copyright Claimant:** Jonas Jodicke  
Grünauer Str. 10, Berlin, 12557, Germany

**Certification** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** Barbara Konecny, Authorized agent of Author/Owner  
**Date:** February 26, 2020

**Copyright Office notes:** Regarding basis for registration: A work may be registered with the Single Application only if the following requirements have been met: 1) The registration covers one work; 2) The work must be created by one individual; 3)

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EXHIBIT 9

