IPFN

Like an ISBN for images

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The problem

Artists cannot reliably attach their names to work web-wide.

The solution

A web-native identifier that connects the work to its claimant.

Ever seen a photograph in the wild and wondered who took that image? A photograph can travel around the world while the photographer's name disappears along the way. IPFN is like an ISBN for images. It gives the work a registered name that works like a web address. Open it to find the artist's recorded claim and the evidence attached to that image.

The photographer can put that address beside an image, in a caption, or behind a QR code on a print. Someone who encounters it has somewhere to start when they want to credit the artist, ask about using the work, or check the registration. The address connects people to the evidence; it does not automatically identify every unlabelled copy online.

Who took this photograph?

IPFN is like an ISBN for images.

A web-native identifier for creative work.



A Light Across the Canyon

Kilian Liptrot is the registered claimant.

https://lens-yc.3pfn.xyz

A Light Across the Canyon

Registered claimant

Kilian Liptrot

The registration links to the file fingerprint, certificate and ledger.

View the evidence at IPFN.net

The IPFN opens this registration.

No special app or crypto wallet is needed.

The artist shares the IPFN beside the work. Anyone who opens it can find the registered artist and inspect the evidence attached to that image.

Real photograph: A Light Across the Canyon. Real photograph. The exact original JPEG was verified separately.

Our request: let us demonstrate the working system and agree a small European pilot. We can start in months because the reference technology already exists.

We built it because we needed it

At Blinding Visuals Press, we needed to connect visual work to its artist as it moved through books, exhibitions and commercial use. We also needed someone outside our business to check the evidence. We built IPFN's file chain to solve that problem, then realized it could serve a much wider creative community.

Follow one real photograph

A Light Across the Canyon, LENS-yc.3pfn.xyz, connects its registered claimant to an exact-file fingerprint and an IPFS certificate. Its entry shares a daily ledger with 112 other registrations. One successful Base transaction commits that ledger's fingerprint.

Independent checks match the actual original JPEG, certificate, ledger and transaction. The interactive page lets a visitor repeat the comparisons in their browser. Those checks establish the byte relationships; ownership still depends on the facts.

Why Europe?

Copyright generally belongs to a qualifying creator without registration. Berne preserves that principle while allowing voluntary evidence records. An IPFN grants no copyright. It helps people find and assess a claim. [1]

EUIPO's CopyrightView work is already examining fragmented copyright information. We want IPFN evaluated as a practical photography and visual-art contribution to that effort. [2]

Months, not years

We propose a funded 90-day first phase with ten consented works, including an independent collection. Can visitors find the registered artist, check the evidence, challenge a false claim and export the records? Independent evaluation should answer before expansion.

The proposed basic service would be free for creators. Funding, privacy, disputes and continued operation must be agreed. These are proposed institutional arrangements, separate from today's paid beta.

IPFN controls registration and issuance through its authorities. Anyone can check published evidence; that access does not authorize another issuer. We built this technology to solve a problem we had. We want to speak with the people who can help test its wider use.

Next step: a 30-minute demonstration and pilot discussion. https://ipfn.net/experience | support@ipfn.net

Sources

[1] Berne Convention, Article 5(2), WIPO; What is an ISBN?, International ISBN Agency.

[2] EUIPO, Mapping of EU databases and metadata standards, 28 May 2026.