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13		C DICEDICE COURT	
14	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA		
15			
16	HAROLD DAVIS,	: :	
17	Plaintiff,	:	
18		· :	
19	V.	: Civil Action No.: 19-cv-7650	
20	PINTEREST, INC.,	: COMPLAINT AND JURY: DEMAND	
21	Defendant.		
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COMPLAINT FOR COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT

Plaintiff, HAROLD DAVIS ("Davis" or "Plaintiff"), brings this complaint in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California against PINTEREST, INC. ("Pinterest" or "Defendant"), alleging as follows:

PARTIES

- 1. Plaintiff is a renowned digital artist and award-winning professional photographer. Davis is also the author of many bestselling photography books including: *The Way of the Digital Photographer* (Peachpit Press, awarded as a Best Photography Book of the Year by Photo.net); *Achieving Your Potential As a Photographer: A Photographer's Creative Companion and Workbook* (Focal Press); and *Photographing Flowers* (Focal Press, rated the Best Guide to Flower Photography by Digital Photographer Magazine).
- 2. Plaintiff is a Moab Master printmaker and a Zeiss Lens Ambassador. Davis' photographs have been licensed by art publishers, corporations, and online and print publications throughout the world.
- 3. Plaintiff's work has been exhibited in venues worldwide including but not limited to: Photokina (Cologne, Germany); PhotoPlus Expo (New York, New York); Weston Gallery (Carmel, CA); the Gallery Photo in (Oakland, California); the Arts & Friends Gallery (Heidelberg, Germany); and the Awagami Gallery (Tokushima, Japan).
- 4. On information and belief, Pinterest is a Delaware corporation existing under the laws of the State of California, with headquarters in San Francisco, California. Pinterest is a social media web and mobile application company.

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JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 5. This Court has jurisdiction under 17 U.S.C. § 101 et seq.; 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (federal question); and 28 U.S.C. § 1338(a) (copyright).
- 6. This is a civil action seeking damages for copyright infringement under the copyright laws of the United States (17 U.S.C. § 101 et seq.).
- 7. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant, and venue in this District is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) because the events giving rise to the claims occurred in this district, Defendant engaged in infringement in this district, Defendant resides in this district, and Defendant is subject to personal jurisdiction in this district.
- 8. This Court also has personal jurisdiction over Defendant, and venue in this District is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1400(a).

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS COMMON TO ALL CLAIMS

- 9. Pinterest was founded in 2010. Pinterest reported revenue of \$261,249,000 for fiscal year 2019. Pinterest claims more than 300 million active users worldwide. Pinterest trades on the New York Stock Exchange under the ticker symbol PINS. As of the date of this filing, Pinterest has a current market capitalization of \$13.7 Billion.
- 10. The vast majority of Pinterest's revenue is derived from advertising. The company bills itself as a "visual discovery platform" which allows users to create thematic virtual "pinboards", or "boards", by "pinning" images to their boards. These images are to some extent captured personally by the individual Pinterest users, but are largely copied by Pinterest users from sources on the Internet. As a result of this collection and display of images, Pinterest offers "online marketing services to brands, which allows brands to connect with people on the basis of their shared tastes and interests"---in other words, to target the specific interests of users, such as a home decorating project. In addition, Pinterest's application serves to direct users to existing "pins" and "boards" the application's logic believes will interest the user based on searches and prior activities of the user, and sends frequent emails containing numerous previously "pinned" images to users to encourage them to visit the Pinterest website and application.
- 11. According to the 2018 Global Infringement Report from <u>Copytrack</u>, as many as 2.5 billion images are stolen per day on the web. More alarmingly, the report asserts 85% of the 3 billion

images shared daily on the internet are used without a valid license – with the creators and image agencies largely unaware that they have been used without permission.

- 12. Pinterest's platform was built on the idea of sharing and collecting digital objects. Pinterest Terms and Conditions of Service purportedly grants Pinterest and its users a "non-exclusive, royalty-free, transferable, sublicensable, worldwide license to use, store, display, reproduce, save, modify, create derivative works, perform, and distribute the user content on the platform."
- 13. Simply put, Pinterest provides a mechanism for people to violate the copyright rights of others. Pinterest encourages the wholesale, unauthorized copying of photographs when it states on its commercial website, www.pinterest.com: Pinterest is a virtual pinboard. Pinterest allows you to organize and share all the beautiful things you find on the web. You can browse pinboards created by other people to discover new things and get inspiration from people who share your interests.
- 14. Plaintiff captured the photograph, "Bounty of the Garden Center" ("Copyrighted Photograph 1") on May 29, 2014. [Exhibit 1].
- 15. On or about September 1, 2014, Plaintiff posted Copyrighted Photograph 1 to www.flickr.com/photos/harold_davis/14352726082 (Last visited November 1, 2019). [Exhibit 2].
- 16. Plaintiff registered Copyrighted Photograph 1 with the United States Copyright Office on May 17, 2016 (Registration No.: VA 2-010-614).
- 17. Plaintiff captured the photograph, "Camellia japonica" ("Copyrighted Photograph 2") on January 9, 2011. [Exhibit 3].
- 18. On or about June 1, 2011, Plaintiff posted Copyrighted Photograph 2 to www.flickr.com/photos/harold_davis/5344964915 (Last visited November 1, 2019). [Exhibit 4].
- 19. Plaintiff registered Copyrighted Photograph 2 with the United States Copyright Office on May 17, 2016 (Registration No.: VA 2-007-152).
- 20. Plaintiff captured the photograph, "Poppies and Peonies" ("Copyrighted Photograph 3") on June 2, 2014. [Exhibit 5].
- 21. On or about November 1, 2015, Plaintiff posted Copyrighted Photograph 3 to www.flickr.com/photos/harold_davis/14152756340 (Last visited November 1, 2019). [Exhibit 6].
- 22. Plaintiff registered Copyrighted Photograph 3 with the United States Copyright Office on May 17, 2016 (Registration No.: VA 2-010-614).

copyright information: "© Harold Davis." [Exhibit 27-28].

Harold Davis" immediately adjacent to Copyrighted Photograph 10. [Exhibit 50].

- 102. Link 10 contained an active "Send" button, which enabled any viewer of Link 10 to copy Copyrighted Photograph 10 to a selection of social media platforms, including WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter, and Facebook Messenger. [Exhibit 50].
- 103. The "Send" button included an interface display including the following text: "by Harold Davis" immediately adjacent to Copyrighted Photograph 10. [Exhibit 50].
- 104. Pinterest does not qualify for protection from copyright infringement under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act ("DMCA") because Pinterest initiated the copying, posting, and distribution of Copyrighted Photographs 1-10 detailed above.
- 105. Pinterest does not qualify for protection from copyright infringement under DMCA because its copying, posting, and distribution of Copyrighted Photographs 1-10 was not at the direction of a person other than Pinterest, the purported "service provider."
- 106. Pinterest's copying, posting, and distribution of Copyrighted Photographs 1-10 have been without license or permission of Plaintiff.

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COUNT I: INFRINGEMENT OF COPYRIGHT PURSUANT TO 17 U.S.C. § 101 ET SEQ.

- 107. Plaintiff incorporates herein by this reference each and every allegation contained in each paragraph above.
- 108. Plaintiff is, and at all relevant times has been, the sole copyright owner of Copyrighted Photographs 1-10 ("Copyrighted Photographs"), which are the subject of a valid and complete Certificates of Copyright Registration by the Register of Copyrights.
- 109. Among the exclusive rights granted to each Plaintiff under the Copyright Act are the exclusive rights to reproduce and distribute the Copyrighted Photographs to the public.
- 110. Plaintiff is informed and believes Defendant, without the permission or consent of Plaintiff, copied, posted, and distributed Copyrighted Photographs to third party users of Pinterest. 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.
- 111. 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.
- 112. As a result of Defendant's infringement of Plaintiff's copyright and exclusive rights under copyright, Plaintiff is entitled to actual or 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 Photographs.

COUNT II: CONTRIBUTORY INFRINGEMENT

- Plaintiff is informed and believes that Defendant, without the permission or 113. consent of Plaintiff, knowingly made available Copyrighted Photographs to Pinterest users.
- 114. Plaintiff is informed and believes that Defendant, without the permission or consent of Plaintiff, had knowledge or reason to know of such contributory infringement.
- 115. As a result of Defendants' actions, Plaintiff is entitled to actual damages, statutory damages, or such other and further relief as is just and proper.

1 2 JURY DEMAND 3 Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury on all claims for which there is a right to jury trial. 4 5 Dated: November 20, 2019 **REESE LLP** 6 /s/ Michael R. Reese Michael R. Reese (Cal. State Bar No. 206773) 7 100 West 93rd Street, 16th Floor New York, New York 10025 8 Telephone: (212) 643-0500 9 Facsimile: (212) 253-4272 Email: *mreese@reesellp.com* 10 **REESE LLP** 11 George V. Granade (Cal. State Bar No. 316050) 8484 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 515 12 Los Angeles, California 90211 13 Telephone: (212) 643-0500 Facsimile: (212) 253-4272 14 Email: ggranade@reesellp.com 15 16 - and – 17 THE LAW OFFICE OF DAVID C. DEAL, P.L.C. David C. Deal (VA Bar No.: 86005) 18 P.O. Box 1042 Crozet, Virginia 22932 19 Telephone: (434) 233-2727 20 Counsel for Plaintiff 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28