July 23, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been a commercial and fine artist my entire life. I attended Parsons School of Design, studying fashion illustration, and worked in advertising in New York and Montreal for five years out of school before becoming a freelance illustrator and graphic designer for twenty years. My illustrations and designs, including logo treatments, have been used by small businesses, nationwide.

In 1985, I began producing artwork within the Fine Art domain, displayed in galleries in the East and West Coast. I now produce paintings and bronzes and sell privately. My work is displayed on the Internet and in galleries.

While I no longer require my living to be provided by the sale of my artwork, my images and designs are the work of my life, a personal expression of who I am, and the value they hold for collectors of my work rests on the control I am able to provide for how those images are utilized. To allow anyone or any corporation to have free access to any work I do not have copy written, is for all intents and purposes, diminishing the value of my work that I or anyone else owns. To require artists to pay for the service of copyrighting their work is unfair and departs further down the slippery slope to the corporatocracy of this country.

Having been involved briefly in video work, I have the respect of the need for musicians to protect their creative work, where their work can be acquired and purchased for use and they receive remuneration. The same is for standards in literature for writers. Why would artists now be denied these rights?

Publication of my work only enhances the value but only when I receive proper acknowledgement and remuneration. Why would any other entity have the right to financially benefit from my life work without my approval? Corporations, such as Disney Corporation, have incredibly stringent copyright laws on their brand, logo and any imagery associated with Disney. Corporations have entire legal departments to enforce their rights. Artists do not have the resources, nor should they, have to become policemen to protect their body of work.

The farther away a culture departs from the appreciation, support, and protection of its creative contributors within its midst, the faster its decline.

Sincerely Yours,

Jean MacFarland Altshuler