"Art Made Seriously, All In Good Fun!"

kat mcd art

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U.S. Copyright
Orphan Works

Dear U.S. Copyright Office.

I am a freelance illustrator and fine artist. I'm a graduate of Otis College of Art and Design. I've been a freelance artist for almost twenty years. I would like to share how important copyright protection is to me as an individual artist.

Copyright infringement is the same as someone stealing from me. I create images. I sell the originals works but I keep and the right of reproduction of those same images for my inventory. I earn money on those images in an ongoing basis. If anyone is allowed to take my work and use if for any purpose they see fit. I lose, not only potential income, but potentially my reputation if my work is used on sites or products that I deem inappropriate. Copyright is how I can protect myself from theft or misrepresentation. In the digital age the resale of my images is the way I can make a living. If there is no way to control that usage, I don't make a living.

Reputable and successful publication of my images can increase the value of my work and lead to more income. My images are my inventory. They are mine. Just because it is easy to steal an image off the internet, does not make it right. Artists and their work need protection more now than ever before.

I should be the only person/entity to decide how my images can be used and/or profited from. Copyright of my artwork is the only way I can fight the misuse of my work and recover lost income. It is the only way I can fight to keep my images MINE, to do as I wish with them.

I do not believe that anyone should have the right to use or make money off my work with out my consent. If an entity likes image they find on the web, they should have to do due diligence to find that artist and strike an agreement, or JUST NOT USE THE IMAGE. No excuse can be given to companies for using images they did not commission or create. It will destroy freelance artists.

Sincerely

Kat McDonough