July 21, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

Please protect the rights of artists. The proposed reforms to current copyright are absolutely terrifying. We need our Constitutional right to exclusive control of our work to be upheld. The proposed changes would allow large internet firms and corporations to take further advantage of independent artists' work.

Please help us.

I have been a professional illustrator and designer for over 12 years. I am also a photographer. My work is a part of me. I have been working entirely independently for the past 6 years, and I depend on copyright to protect my work.

One of my primary means of income has been illustrating and designing invitation suites for weddings and parties. I also design many greeting cards. These illustrations and designs don't lose value upon publication. In fact some illustrations and designs are so popular with multiple clients that they become primary sources of income for certain times. The published works become valuable parts of my business inventory.

Copyright law is not an abstract legal issue, it is what my business depends on for survival. It sometimes feels like my only lifeline in our digital world. Please protect artists from others that want to steal their hard work.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Kristine Minke

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