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Re: US Copyright Act

To Whom it may concern,

I've been a professional designer and illustrator since 1986. In 1991 I started working digitally and welcomed the DMCA when it was introduced during the Clinton administration. It's not perfect, but it does protect the creator of the art which is very important to me and my business.

In 2002 I started my own creative firm offering what I call illustrative design. I've worked with companies and brands all around the world and since 2002 I've had to deal with over 300 copyright infringements of my work. This summer I spoke on the topic of copyright (Responding to Rip-Offs) at one of our industries top conferences HOW Design Live. So protecting the intellectual property I create is very important to me as a business owner whose primary source of income is based on the designs I create. The DMCA has provided me with enough leverage needed to manage infringements and deal with those people and companies who willfully steal my art and use it without permission.

So I do not take copyright law lightly or view it as a mere abstract legal issue. It's straight forward protection of my creative expression because I make a living off all my copyrighted work, so infringing my work without permission or compensation is stealing money from my business and my family period.

I created my work and I should voluntarily be the one who controls it's use. No one else decided to create my designs but me, so regardless of what a well-paid lobbyist is pushing on behalf of a multinational company with self-serving motivations, I should be the determining factor in controlling my art not someone who had no part in it's original creation.

To suggest my work loses it's value upon publication makes about as much sense as saying a law loses it's enforcement once it becomes lawful. It's logically absurd. It also begs the question on whose definition you'll choose to define what "Publishing" means as well. Is a Instagram or FB post publishing? It's a proverbial can of idiotic worms you're trying to define.

My portfolio of artwork grows every week as I create more new artwork and designs. No one else is creating my work but me, so why should they have a say in how I allow my art to be used unless they ask permission or pay me to use it? My art is part of my creative inventory that has a tangible worth to it that I determine and no one else has a right to infringe (steal) and use for FREE.

I register designs I feel are more susceptible to infringement to protect my business. I shouldn't be forced to register and pay for every design in order to protect a copyright. It's not fiscally sustainable. The whole logic behind your new act is at best problematic and will cause far more problems for creators like myself. I'm sure Google and other billion dollar internet trolls will love it though. They have the resources to manipulate it.

Even now when you register a design doesn't guarantee protection, so why should I believe registering everything will?

So I hope you guys grow a spine and protect the public, not merely be swayed by well-paid politicians in bed with lobbyists who are trying to push their agenda. I realize the copyright act isn't perfect, but it at least gives the average creator like myself a firm stance to protect the art we create and depend on to make a living.

It's said that wisdom is the skillfull application of knowledge. You should be able to see the wealth of knowledge as to why this new act is a bad idea. So I'm just asking you to skillfully apply the knowledge and act wisely and not let the process be driven by internet firms and their minion of legal allies who in fact would love nothing more than you to allow them to steal our work or categorize it as they see fit.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Von R. Glitschka
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