

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty](#)
Subject: Intellectual Property Rights Study
Date: Wednesday, March 24, 2010 2:58:04 PM
Attachments: [pastedGraphic.tiff](#)

Dear Sirs:

I am writing briefly and quickly (lack of support staff) to express my alarm at a trend affecting an industry to which I have been deeply connected all my life. I have watched with concern the debate about orphan works and Google's settlement for rights usage of creative content.

I am the owner of 2 small art studios and have operated as the principal of W/C Studio Inc. an illustration studio for publishing, advertising, corporate, and institutional clients since 1982. I created a second business entity in 2002, Art at Large Inc. to reproduce art in large scale as environmental/architectural enhancements. I have the distinct vantage point of watching the range of intellectual property rights gain proper respect and be rewarded in the market for the value of visual content in 1978 when I was an undergraduate student at Columbus college of Art and Design. Then to watch the dramatic erosion of copyright law since the late 1980's with the overwhelming gain of internet access to visual content. This trend has most dramatically affected my businesses in no uncertain terms financially, structurally and finally tragically.

I have reduced my staff of support for both business from 5 full time + subcontractors to 2010 employing 1 person as an independent contractor part time. I have watched the quality of content from providers like me suffer intense losses and to exit the industry in droves to provide for their families in ways outside the industry and in other ways cannibalizing the very industry they come from to protect their ability to sustain their life's work. What began as an inherent right to own one's own work - and therefore it's value, has become the entitlement of larger corporations to "own" and subsequently claim authorship of the work by "buying out" the rights of cottage industry owners. the contracts I sign now with major publishers are all eroded in fee structure and rights /usage not to mention the "work for hire" prevalence with threats of no jobs available otherwise form longstanding clients.

The art business is by virtue entrepreneurial and embraces the very nature of the creative independent spirit to which copyright law has up until this time protected and celebrated. In this new century with, the amazing resource of the internet to locate each and every creator, suggesting those individual rights can be overlooked because the creators cannot be located is more ludicrous than ever.

Please consider the visual content providers in your future decision-making and their rights to own their own work as copyright law intended for the purpose of enhancing the social, creative, and economic standards of our American culture. Independent creators are the radar and the awakeners of our culture but will disappear in favor of feeding their families.

Sincerely,
Sally Wern Comport, principal, Art At Large Inc.
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