Howard Berelson artneduc@aol.com www.howardberelson.com

I am a practicing visual artist and published poet, I have been a professional visual artist for the past 50 years. I started my career as a children's book illustrator, trade and text, for 24 years and have published a number of books in my name as well as working as a free lance illustrator/ independent contractor. All of the above mentioned works have been copyrighted in my name as well as in the names of the various publishing houses. I then won a teaching fellowship with the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Art-in-Education Program where I taught in various locations throughout the metropolitan area infusing curriculum with various art forms for 25 years. I also studied printmaking with master printmaker Roberto DeLamonica, I have a degree in Industrial Design, Pratt Institute, 1962 .

I am now a practicing professional visual artist, working digitally, am presently represented by Mobile Digital Art & More, Boonton New Jersey, as well as having been associated with a number of cooperative galleries, for approximately 5-6 years, and have been president of one. I have been in many solo exhibitions as well as in Two -person, three- person and group exhibitions, my exhibition resume is extensive. I have sold my work and continue to sell my images (digital prints) by way of gallery exhibitions and personal contacts from gallery exhibitions

The images I create are mine alone and are informed by the poems I write. I have been awarded Honorable Mention in the 2013 and 2015 Allen Ginsberg Poetry Awards. My recent publication credits include: *The Paterson Literary Review*; *The Great Falls, An Anthology of Poems about Paterson, New Jersey;* and *Lips.*

I am now in the process of researching a publishing house that will consider my computer generated digital images that accompanying my poems for publication before I consider self publishing.

- Copyright law is not an abstract legal issue, it protects the intellectual fruits of my labor, which have been a product of over 50 years of working as a professional artist.
- Our copyrights protect our work, infringing on that copyright is stealing my identity and akin to stealing money from possible sales.
- It's important to our businesses that we remain able to determine voluntarily how and by whom our work is used.
- My work does not lose its value upon publication, it enhances my viability.
- My current work, my resume, the exhibitions I had, my teaching experience, is on my website **www.howardberelson.com** , the site is copyrighted, everything I create is a part of my creative and business inventory in part and in whole.

- In the digital era, inventory is more valuable to artists than ever before
- I therefore have a compelling interest in the continued effectiveness of copyright law in the field of visual art. I stress the undeniable importance that I alone determine when and how and by whom my copyrighted images are used. I am the sole creator of my work.