To Whom it May Concern:

I'm an amateur graphic artist who has occasionally used others' works and made changes for my own personal use, so I believe I understand this issue to some extent. However, I would never believe that it would be fair or justified for me to be able to then claim these edited works as my own and to make money off of them. This is a severe infringement on the rights and income of those who have truly created the work.

No company or individual should be able to take someone's creative work and use it for personal gain without express permission. Many times these small independent artists depend on their creations for their livelihoods. If a large company can swoop in, make minimal changes to a work, claim it as their own, and then undercut the costs of the independent designer, then that small artist can, and likely will, quickly go out of business. Allowing a legal avenue for businesses to do this is the equivalent to allowing, or even actually supporting, the sale of designer knockoffs.

Anything I create as my own should not be able to be taken by someone else and monetized without my permission. Not only do I not want someone to be able to make money off of my own creations without my permission, I feel strongly that it is unfair for them to be able to make minimal changes and claim my designs as their own without my agreement.

Thank you,

Hanna McArdle
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