7/21/2015

Dear Sir or Madam,

As an illustrator working towards my master's degree at Hartford's Low Residency Illustration program, the issue of the Next Great Copyright Act is of great relevance, not only to the faculty and students in my program, but to everyone in my profession. Although it is especially difficult in this modern age, to be gainfully employed as an illustrator, we take great pride in our beautiful decades-old tradition. This is why the Next Great Copyright Act is problematic. We respectfully request that we retain full ownership of what has been rightfully created with our own hands. The terms of the proposed bill are troubling to say the least. It is unfathomable to decide whether an individual can steal hours of work from an illustrator, based solely on the vague concept of a reasonable search. What deems a reasonable search? Our copyrights are the products we license, and an integral part of our business is being able to determine who uses our work. Even when a work has been published, the value does not diminish. Our futures, and the futures of every illustrator in training, will be greatly altered by the proposed bill. Please help keep illustration alive and healthy. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Emily Holt
Hartford Low Residency MFA Illustration Program at Hartford University, CT