July 23, 2015

Re proposed copyright law:

I have been an artist for 45 years. I have a BFA and MFA from Alfred University, and my work has been extensively shown nationally and internationally. Last December it was in a two-person show at the Old Print Shop in New York City, and it is currently included in exhibitions in Venice, Italy, and the Duxbury Art Complex in Massachusetts.

My medium is printmaking. I spend considerable time and energy producing a matrix from which I print an edition of images on paper. I have been producing editions of 100 prints. I think of these works as my warehouse of products to sell for income. The prints in the edition do not lose value when the edition is published. Quite the contrary, at the time of publication, each print is an equal slice of a larger work and has equal value. The value may also increase over time. It is extremely important to me that I should be able to control the use of my images. I am often asked to sell the rights to an image so that the buyer can copy it in a digital print to sell cheaply. I have refused to do this because I feel it dilutes the value of my original prints, and it would be disastrous if I were unable to prevent this use of my work. Please rethink this law.

Grace Bentley-Scheck