

To who it may concern,

My name is Brian Sherwin. I have worked for online art-focused businesses -- as a volunteer and independent contractor -- for several years now. I know how much the majority of artists desire strong copyright. I also know how difficult it can be for artists to protect their copyright legally when small claims issues arise. I just want to say that a focus on copyright small claims is long overdue. The mainstream art world -- the NYC art scene for example -- will say that artists accept a wide interpretation of 'fair use' and that appropriation is a standard. That is simply not true -- most of the artists I've been in contact with do NOT want to see copyright limited. They want to be able to protect their hard work and legacy.

Last year a website infringed on the work of over 300 artists. None of those artists could find legal help because the alleged infringement did not involve huge profit. The lawyers simply did not want to take on the gamble of representing these artists against the website owner -- who was offering the infringed images as prints for sale. If copyright small claims had existed this artists would have likely saw justice.

Warm regards,

Brian Sherwin