Sunday, July 19, 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

I am an artist in America, expressing myself in this wonderful country in full of opportunity and "The American Dream". As an artist, I can willfully attest to the use of my infinite freedom of speech that is my art, in hopes of, someday, being noticed by, either a willing publisher for my written works, or a lawful and accepting company to my, rather, unique drawing abilities. With this freedom of speech through, either my written word, or abstract look on intellect of my own internal life as well as the inhabitants that linger just at my fingertips, I have come to love and accept that, regardless of the endless increase of competition in the world of art, it is absolutely important that we as artists maintain our rights, and that includes our "copy-rights" (pun intended).

This new Copyright law that is being proposed is a new low in scandalous endeavors by our country to willingly strip us artists and what little we have left in terms of what belongs to us in the world of our creations. This country is full of inspired individuals yearning to be heard, not to become famous but to be listened to. We artists do not yearn for fame and fortune but to simply be understood, and, frankly, how are we to be heard if we will not be recognized for our valuable works?

As found on one of my blogging websites, a respectable artist in the U.S. has made it known to me, as well as many others about what is to come of this new "Copyright Act". And their findings include:

- *"Voiding our Constitutional right to the exclusive control of our work"*, - which completely takes the freedom of our creations away from us.
- *""privileging" the public's right to use our work"* - without permission, basically giving the public incentive to steal an honest artist's work,
- *""pressure" us to register our work with commercial registries"*, - giving us no alternative so they can pay, or even mention us, as little as possible,
- *""Orphan" unregistered work"*, - which means this will let unnamed work be free art for anyone to use without the fear of having to find it's creator,
- *"make "orphaned" work available for commercial infringement by "good faith" infringers"*, - letting commercial companies get away with stealing someone's art, and not having to worry about backfires or even having to look for who might have actually made the piece of art that they will use, I mean, they steal everything else, right?
- *"allow others to "alter" an artist's works, and copyright these "derivative works" in their own name"*, - dropping the artist that was used for their own selfish gain and leaving, said artist, in the dust of what little is left, scavenged and given to them,
- and *"it would effect every piece of art: drawings, paintings, sketches, photos, etc.; past, present, and future; published and unpublished; domestic and foreign"*, - saying that any art is no longer safe in anyone's hands, not even in their creators, anywhere, even outside of the U.S. if it were un-fortunate enough to be caught in certain hands in any lovely corporation in America.

This is unlawful, unjust, and as a citizen of the United States, a proud member of a society that is supposed to be able to keep their rights, especially in terms of our free speech, it is down right disgusting to see this even be considered to be a new law. As a citizen, I am revolted by such a demeaning infringement of my basic rights of my use of free speech, and as I stated above, my art is my speech. I refuse to let it come to pass that cooperation will be allowed to take whatever they please with it comes to hard working artists in this country.

To all who is voting on such a disastrous Act, come Thursday, July 23rd, 2015, let's take a moment to remember all who created and signed the Constitution: George Washington, George Reed, Gunning Bedford, Jr., John Dickenson, Richard Bassett, Jacob Broom, James McHenry, Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, Daniel Carroll, John Blair, James Madison, Jr., William Blount, Richard Dobbs Spaight, - I believe it is needless to continue. I don't really feel like adding all 39 names onto this list. But that's okay, right? All I would be doing, by ignoring to add every single signature of the Constitution, is disregarding every single person who came into play on the wonderful Constitution that is still in use to us, today. But, would it be rude of me not to add every single signature?

It would, wouldn't it?

If not for every single signature on that beloved piece of history on that fateful day, we wouldn't be in quite the same country that we are in today. Don't take away something that is rightfully ours. Don't take away something that is needed to the people of the United States; our basic human rights, which includes our freedom of speech, because, by God, I will defend my art as a significant freedom of my speech until the day I die.

Do not let that let this pass. We citizens do not deserve it.

Thank You.

As a faithful citizen of this beloved United States,
~***Christine Shane***