7/21/2015

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is C.C. Miranda, and I am a disabled artist. I have been a professional artist since 1997. To achieve this, I have undergone many years of intensive training and education. Due to my disability, I am unable to work even a standard part time job.

In order to help pay my bills and feed myself, I rely on what art I can create and its sale, with the internet as being my major way to attract buyers and facilitate the sale. The images I create, and the publishing them online to my website or social media, are my sales inventory and marketing of that inventory. They are my entire business. This includes the original work, as well as sales of the limited edition prints made and licensing of images to others for their use with proper compensation made to me.

The proposed changes to current copyright law would in effect strip me of that ability. It would then require me, as well as several thousand other artists to rely on the government for food stamps and welfare to feed themselves and their families, while giving billion dollar corporations to steal our hard work and efforts. You would be in effect causing untold hardship and poverty to those already straddling that line.

Imagine if you spent weeks, sometimes even months, putting your time and effort as well as some of your finances into a project, only to have someone come along and say that they don't have to pay you for that? Think about how you would tell your family that you can't pay the rent, or fill your kid's stomachs, because of a law that deemed your efforts are no longer valuable, because someone took a picture and posted it online without your knowledge, or you were required to put it online in order to get paid, yet then allowed someone else to publish that very work and for them to make money off of it. This is exactly what this law change would do to artists, particularly the ones just starting out in business or whom do not already have the power and wealth associated with a known name.

Please take what I have said into consideration before you destroy the basis of what helps feed and house so many, just to allow others to outright steal the bread from our mouths when they can so easily pay for the product.

Sincerely,
C.C. Miranda
Fine Artist