Hi there.

Not sure who I am addressing here, but I thought as an illustrator/licensing artist, that I should show up and say PLEASE don't give away my rights to my own art… I make my living as a licensing artist, and if any of the following come true…

"The Next Great Copyright Act" would replace all existing copyright law.

void our Constitutional right to the exclusive control of our work.

"privilege" the public's right to use our work.

"pressure"artists to register theirwork with commercial registries.

"orphan" unregistered work.

make orphaned work available for commercial infringement by "good faith" infringers.

allow others to alter artists work and copyright these "derivative works" in their own names.

It would in the end affect all visual art: drawings, paintings, sketches, photos, etc.; past, present and future; published and unpublished; domestic and foreign.

<u>I probably won't be able to do it any longer.</u>

Early on, I did greeting card work as work for hire (didn't understand what I was doing), and I cannot tell you how sad I was when I say my cards all pulled apart and used to make new cards that I was never paid for. As far as I am concerned stuff like that is unethical and unfriendly to the hard working artist who are the actual driving force for some companies. Where would they be without us! By passing any and all of the above you are saying that they have all the rights and we have none.

I know it might seem like it would "make things easier" but in fact it will destroy many a career.

So please consider what it means for those of us who actually are the driving force of visual images during this time. We have devoted our lives to creating imagery for the world to look at, (which is hard enough). But it is even harder to make a living doing it and if you pass even a portion of the list above--all of us who do will be in a world of hurt… perhaps even losing the ability to make our livings. And I personally think it may be one of the very hardest livings TO make.

Please consider all our pleas and listen to the artists of the United States. Please help us protect what is genuinely and truly our own.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Cori Dantini

www.corid.etsy.com

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