July 7, 2015

To the Members of The Copyright Office:

I am a professional artist member of both The National Cartoonists Society and The Society of Illustrators. I have a BA from Brown University and a BFA in Illustration from The Rhode Island School of Design.

In the past appropriating the work of others would have been called cheating in school – or stealing in the business world. It was considered wrong. Our culture should not change or evolve to accept cheating and stealing. The assets of artists should be protected.

I became a digital artist in 1995, before there was such a thing as a digital native. Because I am a digital artist I have nothing in my creative repertoire that can be called "the original". I have many versions of each creation. (I do not have the time or money to register each creation, much less each version.) I create directly on my Mac with a Wacom tablet and an electronic stylus. Sometimes I integrate my old work into new work – something I want to prevent others from doing. Can I prove my unregistered work is my own? Yes, I can go back about 20 years into my computer, which dates all my digital artwork and all versions of my digital work

The past work of an artist is his pension. The pensions of other Americans are not invaded. Why should the creative body of work generated by an artist be invaded? The life of an artist has always been a perilous one, but never as perilous as it is today.

Yours truly,

Mary Anne Case
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