July 22, 2015

Greetings,

My name is Palma Christian and I am pursuing a career in scientific illustration. I am currently finishing a masters thesis and have been doing ilustrations for scientists for some. Although I have not worked as a professional artist I have as a student, volunteering to illustrate for my own educational purposes. Time, effort, investment and dedication are put into each one of these illustrations with the reasurring feeling that they will become part of my portfolio, will be valued as my work and will help me find my way into earning a living from them in the future.

This feeling is strongly held by the fact that I know that I am supported by a copywrite law that protects my authorship from the day that I start an ilustration to the day that I finish it and that I have the right to have my name under every one of its apearences in the future because it was done by my effort. This moves me to work harder and to try my best to try and achieve the standards I set for myself. Standards inspired by many other artists for whom I can recognize a particular style and relate it to their name.

I am not scared about sharing or showing my work because I assume that my authorship and my rights could be defended, if necessary. This has not been an easy lesson to learn for me. Each illustration done with heart and sweat holds an effort you would not want violated, and whenever one exposes an illustration, a sketch or a photograph of the work in progress, one is exposed to criticism, admiration and among other things posible theft. Theft in art takes on many forms. From the most obvious to cheeky changes that involve little effort and theoretically can sufficiently change an image to have it signed by another. All the more so in the digital era.

A propper use of digital resources and networks is extremely enriching and inspiring, giving support and encouragement from neer and far. The ease with which others have shared their work has been very important for learning and fealing passionate about what I want to achieve and an enriching support front when in doubt. One will only freely share if backed up by a law. Contributing to creating a name based culture that strives to do their best when creating an image and the sharing can only happen where immediate authorship is easily protected and defended. Without such a backup things would be very different.

I can not see how a copywrite system can be fair if authorship depends on income. Those that can invest time and money on registering copywrite will be more protected than those that cant. Students need to be backed up by law in order to find their way in an ever more competitive world. Please keep copywrite a goverment based, free of charge service.

Under the current copywrite law one does not even have to think about ones rights because one holds them. But the truth is that authors are the legitimate carebearers of their work. They are those who will best speak for it, know its use, and denounce its plagiarism.

Yours respectfully,
Palma E. Christian.

U.S. Citizen.
Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain and Hamden, CT.