

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty](#)
Subject: Intellectual Property
Date: Wednesday, March 24, 2010 7:58:14 AM

Dear Ms. Espinel,

My name is Dick Detzner. I live at 609 W. Ohio St., in Urbana, IL. I've been painting professionally for many years now. I used to take the copyright protections artists receive for granted. It seemed obvious and true that when someone creates an original work, it belongs to them automatically. This is crucial to artists of all kinds, without that basic foundation artists simply couldn't make a living. In recent years, there have been a couple of new threats to this foundation, aside from the always-present possibility of someone using your work without your permission.

The most immediate threat to copyright protection is a bill making its way through Congress referred to as the Orphan Works Bill. The name of the bill is misleading. In fact it is a wolf in sheep's clothing. Initially meant to protect museums and other intellectual institutions when they wish to exhibit very old works that truly can't be attributed to the original artist because no record exists, the bill has been subverted by corporate interests to essentially make it possible for nearly any commercial enterprise to take existing works without permission, with little or no consequences. Please contact Brad Holland and Cynthia Turner of the Illustrator's Partnership for more details.

The other recent threat to copyright protection is a sort of intellectual fad that wishes to treat all artwork as public property, in order to foster creativity. I reject this notion out of hand. If artists wish to collaborate with other artists, that is their choice, and their decision. To say that something I created is public property because it can be seen in public is akin to saying that the house I own is open to the public by virtue of the fact that it exists. Please resist these excuses for intellectuality.

The copyright office provides a great service not just to artists and writers, but to the nation as a whole. If artists are not protected economically, they simply will have to pursue other interests, and the culture would be much poorer for it.

Good luck with your efforts to protect property. Please protect artists, who tend to work alone, from the interests of large corporations,

Sincerely,

Dick Detzner (and his daughter Bianca)