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“Independent Artist Files Suit to Fight Copyright Infringement by Kohl’s”

NEW YORK, NEW YORK – Los Angeles-based artist Lili Chin is the plaintiff in a copyright infringement case against retail giant Kohl’s.

This lawsuit confronts a rampant international problem for independent artists in the digital age.

Ms. Chin is one in a growing community of indie artists who have had their copyrighted images stolen for unauthorized commercial use by corporate retailers. Her lawsuit, filed by the law firm Kushnirsky Gerber PLLC, challenges the egregious theft of her copyrighted artwork by defendants Kohl’s and its supplier K. Bell.

Kohl’s is the second largest department store chain in the United States with annual sales in excess of \$19 billion dollars. With this lawsuit Kohl’s joins the list of corporate clothing manufacturers and retailers accused of stealing from independent artists and designers.

Ms. Chin is well-known for her dog illustrations, posters, t-shirts, and enamel pins. She makes a living from her art, licensing her illustrations for use on clothing and other products. Her infographics on dog behavior, such as her 2011 poster *Doggie Language*, have become viral sensations on the internet.

Fans of Ms. Chin alerted her to the theft of her artwork on clothing items at Kohl’s, which sells t-shirts and socks with Ms. Chin’s designs in their stores and online. Some fans have even assumed that the items were officially licensed from Ms. Chin.

In fact, Ms. Chin has never licensed her work to Kohl’s or K. Bell. She was totally blindsided by this blatant mis-use of her art.

Kohl’s has ignored repeated notifications regarding its flagrant infringement of Ms. Chin’s art, and is indeed still selling shirts and socks featuring her artwork at the time of this release. Ms. Chin has been forced to file this lawsuit to protect her rights as an artist. The ability of artists to license and control the commercial use of their artwork is critical to their livelihoods, and is a key right bestowed on artists under the United States Copyright Act.

This lawsuit has implications for creative rights and for corporate retailers.

For the complaint: http://media.wix.com/ugd/6a19e7_cce2459de0ba4765ae9d3799ebc7e93f.pdf

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