February 15, 2017

From February 20-24, Yale University Library will be hosting a series of events to mark Fair Use Week [1] – an annual celebration held the last week of February celebrating the important doctrines of Fair Use in the United States. Members of the Yale community are welcome to join us for any or all of these events.

Fair Use Week Popup Table, Medical Library

Monday, February 20, 1:00-3:00 pm, Cushing/Whitney Medical Library

Drop by to learn about Fair Use (*see below) and how you can analyze the four factors of Fair Use in your own work. Librarians will provide a helpful handout and candy!

Fair Use in the Arts Panel Discussion

Monday, February 20, 5:00 pm, Digital Media Center for the Arts, 149 York

Join us for a discussion on Fair Use in the visual arts centered around communities of artistic practice, by Johannes DeYoung, Justin Berry and Matthew Leifheit. We'll explore different ways artists, designers, and makers invoke Fair Use in their work, particularly as it applies to the visual arts. Panelists will offer their perspectives and experiences navigating copyright restrictions and how Fair Use helps guide and protect artistic practice.

Fair Use Week Popup Table, Sterling Memorial Library

Tuesday, February 21, 1:00-3:00 pm, Sterling Memorial Library Nave

Drop by to learn about Fair Use (*see below) and how you can analyze the four factors of Fair Use in your own work. Librarians will provide a helpful handout and candy!

Fair Use Week Popup Table, Yale Divinity Library

Thursday, February 23, 1:30-3:30 pm, Yale Divinity Library, 409 Prospect

Drop by to learn about Fair Use (*see below) and how you can analyze the four factors of Fair Use in your own work.

*Fair Use* is a legal doctrine in the United States that allows for the use of copyrighted materials without the permission of the copyright holder. The doctrine is based on the idea that certain uses of copyrighted materials should be allowed for certain purposes, such as criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching, scholarship, and research. The doctrine is based on the idea that copyright law should not prevent the dissemination of information and should allow for a reasonable balance between the rights of the copyright owner and the freedom of others.

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To determine whether a use is fair, a court will consider the following four factors:

1. The purpose and character of the use, including whether the use is of a commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes.
2. The nature of the copyrighted work, including whether the work is a published or unpublished work, and whether it is a creative or factual work.
3. The amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole.
4. The effect of the use upon the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work.

In general, a use is more likely to be fair if it is non-commercial, involves a small amount of copyrighted material, and has little impact on the potential market for the copyrighted work.

*See* Fair Use Week [1] for more information on the doctrine of Fair Use in the United States.
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Copyright Protection Gave Superman the Ability to Stop Bullets; Fair Use Made Him a God

Friday, February 24, 3:00 pm, Sterling Memorial Library Lecture Hall

Superman is a Depression-era hero thriving in a post-industrial world. His many iterations began with a short story written by a high school student about a mad scientist who performed experiments on men waiting in bread lines. Superman was the mad scientist, he was bald, and he was not a “good guy.” The two high school students who continued to develop Superman eventually realized that people living through the Great Depression needed a hero who could root out corruption, manhandle machines, and sympathize with human frailty. Without early copyright protection, Superman almost certainly would not have developed into the well-known character he is today. Without the Fair Use exception to copyright infringement, however, Superman would not have developed into an archetype. Through Superman, we will trace the history of Fair Use and highlight its importance. The talk will be given by Anderson Duff, Partner at Revision Legal, New York, NY.

A full listing of library events can be found here [2].

*Material provided at all events is for information purposes only and should not be considered legal advice

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Links