

AN OPEN LETTER TO **STOP THE CENSORSHIP ON ART AND FREE SPEECH**

I HAVE ALWAYS WORKED HARD TO BE ONE OF THE LOUDEST VOICES FOR ARTISTS. I have fought tooth and nail as a voice for arts students. I proudly wear the badge of “that annoying artsy guy”. It’s not the first time I’ve heard that, and it won’t be the last.

WE ARE CURRENTLY FACING HARD TIMES, both economically and morally as artists and designers. We are fighting a battle to prove we have value, and we have worth. The NEA specifically and arts education in general are under attack. The new administration has set themselves up as judges of what’s moral, what’s appealing. They’ve decided they are the ones to define ART and reality. In other words CENSORSHIP. True art is not comfortable, it never should be, true art makes you think. It makes you feel something, whether it’s dance, film, music or a visual piece. Art is life. Art is power. Art is VITAL

WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN IN THIS FIGHT, sometimes even within our own families or with our friends. Regardless, we have always been strong in our convictions that creating art is what we were born to do. Making art is THE reason I exist. When the nuclear winter comes, and it will sooner than any of us think, if I must take up a stick and draw in the radioactive dust, I will. If I lose my hands and sight, I will find some way to

make art. I was drawing before I could write my name, and I will meet the great beyond with a pencil or pen in my hand. I AM AN ARTIST and I always will be.

WE HAVE A LOT TO FEAR AS WE LOOK INTO THE FUTURE. We always have. The difference this time is that what we’ve imagined is now real. There is nothing to fear, we are legion. We are mass. We are artists and we will not be silenced, now or ever!

I PROMISE TO:

- fight for artists rights everywhere. To their voice if they can’t be.
- do whatever I have to ensure that artists (anyone) aren’t censored or silenced by narrow minded bigots afraid of the truth or reality.
- work to promote the image of the artists around the world
- work to provide the best arts education I can in a way that is best for the students.
- work for the betterment of all artists, everywhere.

Ed H.

**JOIN ME IN STAND UP
TO TYRANNY + CENSORSHIP**
NO VOICE SHOULD EVER BE SILENCED