

studio A

Media Release

November 20, 2023

Neurodivergent Artist Empowers Creative Sector: Artists Rights project unveils innovative legal rights resources

Greetings!



We members of Arts Law travel throughout the galaxy to help you understand contracts, moral rights and copyright

Detail from Artists Rights illustrated document by Greg Sindel, 2022.

This International Day of People with Disability, [Studio A](#) - a social enterprise arts studio dedicated to supporting neurodivergent artists - in partnership with [The Arts Law Centre of Australia](#), is set to launch the groundbreaking resource *Artists Rights by Greg Sindel*. The initiative aims to bridge the gap in legal rights information accessible to artists, empowering them to understand, protect, and economically benefit from their creative practice.

Artists Rights by Greg Sindel is not merely a legal communication project; it is a transformative initiative led by an artist with intellectual disability poised to make a lasting impact on the lives and careers of artists with intellectual disability, fostering a more inclusive and empowering creative landscape.

Artists with disability are increasingly contributing to professional contexts, making it essential for them to comprehend their legal rights. The challenge lies in the often text-heavy dense format of legal information, posing a significant barrier for artists with intellectual disability or low literacy levels.

Artists Rights by Greg Sindel addresses the crucial need for clear and accessible legal information, tailored in particular to artists with intellectual disability or literacy challenges. The project leverages graphic animations, skillfully crafted by Studio A

artist Greg Sindel in collaboration with Arts Law's legal expertise, to facilitate a better understanding of creative rights.

Gabrielle Mordy, Studio A CEO/Artistic Director explains,

"Artists with intellectual disability have a long history of exploitation. Artists Rights uses the voice and skills of neurodivergent artist Greg Sindel to help empower ALL artists to better protect their key legal rights and thereby increase their economic and artistic empowerment."

As communicated in a report published by [Creative Australia in 2021](#), graphic storytelling simplifies complex ideas and transcends language barriers, making it an ideal medium to convey legal concepts. *Artists Rights* builds on Greg Sindel's prior work with Studio A in 2020, where he illustrated the studio's [NDIS policies](#). This time, supported by Studio A and Arts Law, Sindel has created innovative graphic artworks answering questions such as "What is your copyright?" and "Is it okay if someone copies your work onto a T-shirt and sells it?".

Working with Animation Lecturer Deborah Szapiro and second-year students enrolled in the Bachelor of Animation Production at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS), Sindel condensed his graphic storytelling into three captivating animated videos. In these videos, the Arts Law legal team undergoes a transformation into strangely approachable alien beings, as Sindel takes on the role of presenting and voicing informative summaries on Copyright, Moral Rights, and Contracts.

Sindel is a comic artist and graphic novelist with several published titles and a long exhibition history spanning over a decade. The artist has presented workshops for TEDxSydney and has conducted lectures at UTS and University of New South Wales.

In a collaborative process Arts Law provided legal expertise and a platform for the completed animations to be shared digitally across the nation. The outcome of *Artists Rights* is an engaging and playful, yet informative series of animations which are anticipated to increase understanding of legal rights among artists. This knowledge empowers artists to exercise their rights confidently and participate more safely in cultural sectors.

"When artists' know their rights it enables them to build sustainable arts practices and take advantage of opportunities without being taken advantage of." said Arts Law CEO, Robyn Ayres.

"Arts Law is committed to creating accessible legal resources to help all artists understand how the law affects their creative practice. So we are thrilled to be able to present this video series in partnership with Studio A and artist Greg Sindel. Look out for the Arts Law spaceship and our team of friendly aliens!"

To ensure inclusivity and best practice the project engaged with key stakeholders. [Accessible Arts](#) NSW facilitated consultation and testing with artists with disability within their network to verify the accessibility of the materials and test the effectiveness of Sindel's initial illustrations and script. While Szapiro and her cohort of

UTS students were tasked with animating the graphic illustrations under Sindel's direction.

"Knowing that my animations will be helping artists everywhere to understand their rights, I feel absolutely proud of it!" said Sindel.

"I quite enjoyed working with the team of animators. They listened to me and helped to make this entire thing possible. It kinda made me feel like a Hollywood director, like I could be the next Tim Burton. Yay! What a pleasure."

On working with Sindel, Szapiro said,

"The most rewarding part of this project was opening up my students' minds. Once Greg did his talk, they were all fans. He changed their value system about the way they viewed art, expression and their own practice. It also made them view intellectual disability in a completely different way. I feel he freed them up, and opened them up, which was a large part of my pedagogical intent in taking on this project."

Artists Rights by Greg Sindel can be previewed [here](#) and was supported by Create NSW and Westpac Foundation.

--- ends ---

Please contact Karla Hansen for more information:

karla.hansen@studioa.org.au



studioa.org.au