

Testimonials – The Artist's Resale Right

Canadian Artists

Having lost my husband I had to learn to be the mother and father; I used my skill as an artist. I have learned to earn money for my dear children, and I am very grateful that I have been able to provide for my family through my drawings and carvings. I would like the idea of the Artist's Resale Right. That would be ideal and should be encouraged. It would be so much better; those artists would benefit more and get more out of their work.

-Kenojuak Ashevak, Governor General Award Winner, Companion of the Order of Canada, Cape Dorset, NU

The idea of the Artists Resale Right is a good one. People should be sympathetic to this.

-Michael Snow, Governor General Award Winner, Companion of the Order of Canada, Toronto

Having the Artist's Resale Right would be more fair for artists. You work over several years and it's inevitable that your previous pieces increase in value. Why shouldn't the artist benefit from that?

-Claude Tousignant, Governor General Award Winner, Officer of the Order of Canada, Montreal

This is a wonderful way for artists to benefit from their hard work and dedication to, in many cases, their life's work. In my case it was not until later in life that I have achieved a semblance of success, and at 92 yrs of age and surviving on a small pension and returns on dwindling investments it would definitely have been helpful to have had a small stream of extra income.

-Daphne Odjig, Governor General Award Winner, Member of the Order of Canada, Kelowna, BC

I have seen my work escalate in value by quite a big percentage. A painting done in 1966 fetched \$40 and is valued now at \$20,000. As we get older it gets harder and harder to find the energy to produce enough work to maintain a decent living.

-Mary Pratt, Companion of the Order of Canada, Newfoundland

I am in full support of the modest proposal that artists have resale rights. It seems very little to ask when you consider that the artist, through his or her efforts over many years, is largely responsible for the increased value of their work. Many of the early works were sold at very low prices because the artist had not developed a reputation. Over many or a few years, some artists, through

diligence and hard work, manage to increase the value of their market many fold. A buyer reselling a work may experience a windfall or at least a handsome profit. Sharing such a windfall with the artist who is largely responsible for this happy event with a modest 5% return to the artist seems less than generous to me, but let's start there.

-Joe Fafard, Officer of the Order of Canada, Lumsden, SK

I would welcome the provisions of the Artists Resale Right.

-Christopher Pratt, Companion of the Order of Canada, Mount Camel, NL

I would like the work of the artist to be acknowledged. The work exists because the artist created it. Without the artist there would be no artwork, and with no artwork, no market. The Artist's Resale Right is a great idea that would allow the profits to be shared with the artist. It is simply a matter of respect.

-Rita Letendre, Governor General Award Winner, Officer of the Order of Canada, Toronto, ON

One of the works I produced in 1956, which I had given to a friend was sold by his heir at auction for a little more than \$86,000. I did not receive one cent from this sale. Others are getting rich on my works, while my situation remains very insecure at 85 years of age.

-Marcel Barbeau, Officer of the Order of Canada, Montreal, QC

Artist's Resale Right is very, very important. Canada should be the role model for artists' rights.

-David Blackwood, Member of the Order of Canada, Port Hope, Ontario

Canadian Collectors and Art Market Professionals

Auction houses have been profiting from the works of great Canadian artists without giving anything back for far too long. Canada must do more to protect its artists — granting artists resale rights is the first step on a long road.

-Gordon Gothreau, Ritchies auction house, Toronto

We have been collecting art for 50 years and have always taken a particular interest in the careers of younger Canadian artists we acquire. We have donated hundreds of works of these younger Canadian artists to the National Gallery of Canada, the Beaverbrook Art Gallery, the Art Gallery of Alberta, the Carleton University Art Gallery and the Ottawa Art Gallery, but it's not enough to sustain their careers. The artists need to benefit more directly, and bringing the Artist's Resale Right to Canada for when we buy or sell their work is essential to sustain our artists in Canada.

-Glenn and Barbara McInnes, Ottawa

As long as the Artist's Resale Right is applied fairly, I would support it. A royalty paid to the artist on the resale of their work would not be a burden. It's important that the paperwork in handling it,

should be straight-forward and not too time consuming. If this concern is dealt with, it would be helpful to bringing in the Resale Right. A healthy art economy is good for dealers and artists alike.

*-Darrell Bell, Darrell Bell Gallery, Saskatoon
Member of the Art Dealers Association of Canada*

At Cube Gallery, we are committed to honouring the original artist through resale rights and feel that all galleries and dealers should as well. Not only do I support putting the Artist's Resale Right in law, but Cube already pays the Artist's Resale Right. We have paid an artist percentage since we began operation nine years ago, both from our own collections and at our yearly secondary sales shows. For me, it needs no debate -- It's just the right thing to do.

-Don Monet, Cube Gallery, Ottawa

I am definitely in support of the ARR - it makes perfect sense - and truly, I cannot see it having a serious impact on income for an art dealer or auction house. It is the right and ethical thing to do - after all - without the artist, the dealer or auction house simply has no - well, I hesitate to say product - but there it is. Without artists' to make the work, dealers & auction houses have nothing to sell.

-Y.M.Whelan, yumart, Toronto

I've had an ongoing interest in the development of a strong art market, particularly here in the north and that can only happen when all the parties involved benefit from the appreciating value of a work of art.

-Joan Ferneyhough, Ferneyhough Contemporary, North Bay, ON

I am very supportive of ARR. It is only reasonable that artists should have a share in their own success. As a commercial gallery in Hamilton I have had few dealings in the secondary market, but it is a sector that will only grow.

-David Brace, b contemporary fine art, Hamilton

The Northern Arts and Cultural Centre will soon be putting some artwork that we own on eBay as a fundraiser. We have decided to give 5% of the sales to each of the artists because we not only believe that this is a small but important way to acknowledge the contribution of the artists to our collective cultural experience, but here in the north, the establishment the artist's resale right would be a tremendous boon to the survival of our northern artistic heritage. We believe it would also be a great help confirming to our younger artists that it is indeed possible to have a career as an artist and earn enough of an income to be able to support themselves and their families.

-George Lessard, Northern Arts and Cultural Centre, Yellowknife

Art Market Professionals in England

Sales have been as healthy as before the law came into effect. Clients haven't indicated that they were unwilling to buy because of the royalty. In fact, there hasn't really been much discussion of the law.

-Glenn Scott-Wright, Victoria Moro Gallery (London, England)

"We've had two very successful seasons," and the resale royalty law has been "pretty irrelevant," according to a spokesman for Christie's.

-Huffington Post, September 2012

Other Endorsements

The Royal Canadian Academy of Arts
The Canadian Crafts Federation
The Artist-Run Centres and Collectives Conference
The Alliance of Canadian Cinema, Television and Radio Artists
The Canadian Federation of Musicians
The Canadian League of Composers
The Creators Copyright Coalition
Access Copyright
Visual Arts Alberta

Visual Arts Nova Scotia
Visual Artists Newfoundland and Labrador
The Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association
CARFAC British Columbia
CARFAC Saskatchewan
CARFAC Manitoba
CARFAC Ontario
CARFAC Maritimes
Illustration Québec
DAMIC – a Quebec coalition of artists and copyright collectives