

**Nancy DeLaurier Award  
Gretchen Wagner  
April 4, 2013**

**Introduction by Elisa Lanzi**

I am very pleased to be standing here saying the words *VRA 2013 Nancy DeLaurier Award* and *Gretchen Wagner* in the same sentence. This award honors an achievement of global significance for VRA, the *Statement on the Fair Use of Images for Teaching, Research, and Study*. Gretchen's leadership in bringing this important document to publication is a consummate achievement.

Like many of you, I found that Gretchen's work resonated in my local community. Soon after the publication of her seminal article, "Sharing Visual Arts Images for Educational Use," Gretchen spoke at our Five Colleges consortial forum. Her well-reasoned strategy and passion for the topic helped our faculty and administrators to better understand this complex area. For the past two years I have chaired a task force charged with creating a Best Practices statement for our Five Colleges. We could not have done the job without the *VRA Statement on Fair Use*. The *Statement* is the culmination of Gretchen's long-term commitment to open access for images in the educational environment.

It was easy to gather letters of support for Gretchen's nomination. I asked colleagues who have worked closely with Gretchen in the context of VRA IP initiatives as well as those who have witnessed the impact of the *Statement* in the broader communities. I'd like to share their words about Gretchen.

Christine Sundt said, "Thanks to Ms. Wagner's astute knowledge of the law, her revered connections with like-minded and equally gifted legal colleagues, and her unbounded energy, VRA has benefited enormously from her mighty pen and calm demeanor. . . The VRA Statement is indeed the crowning glory in her already stellar presence and warm association with the Visual Resources Association."

"When one considers the many years she has worked on the VRA's Intellectual Property Rights Committee (as a member and chairperson), her other publications, such as the influential *Educause* article, "Sharing Visual Images for Educational Use: Finding A New Angle of Repose," it all constitutes a body of intellectual property work without parallel in the field of visual resources," noted Maureen Burns.

Jen Green expressed, "I have always been extremely impressed by Gretchen's energy, vision, and leadership on the VRA IPR committee, and her ability to inspire others to produce deliverables that support knowledge and progress of ideas. Over the past several years, I have witnessed Gretchen give unselfishly of her time and energy to the goals of the VRA Intellectual Property Rights Committee and the advancement of the visual resources profession at large."

“One of Gretchen’s crowning achievements in her career to date is clearly the use of her driving intelligence, determination and personal charm in orchestrating the work of the VRA Intellectual Property Rights Committee in producing the Association’s *Statement on the Fair Use*,” declared David Green.

Leigh Gates noted, “The assurance that images can continue to be fairly and effectively used in academia is due in no small part to Gretchen Wagner’s intelligence, perseverance and efforts.”

“Gretchen’s excellent efforts didn’t stop with the *Statement’s* publication. She has presented this work to her legal colleagues through participation in panel presentations, organized information sessions, and a question and answer session at the VRA Albuquerque conference. She continues to seize opportunities to disseminate the *Statement* and reinforce/extend fair use practices for images,” said Maureen Burns.

“Quickly and widely recognized in the academic and cultural community as a “clear and concise statement of best practices,” the statement is an important milestone that will guide practice in the research and scholarly community in the future and has already influenced other organizations’ readiness to continue this work in other domains,” acknowledged David Green.

Max Marmor added, “My own role at ARTstor, as Director of Collection Development, required that Gretchen and I work closely together on the complex intellectual property issues surrounding the educational and scholarly use of digital art images. I learned – to put it bluntly – a ton from Gretchen. Much more importantly, the whole field learned and benefited from her work.”

Diane Zorich mentioned, “The *Statement’s* release has generated a groundswell of support. Professional social media networks lit up with news of it, and with comments that were universal in their praise. University libraries and visual resources collections began posting the document on the copyright/fair use resource sections of their Web sites. Many libraries and visual resource curators went a step further, citing portions of the *Statement* in their own fair use statements and in other advisory documents. The rapid dissemination of news about this document made it clear that the community was *waiting* for a statement of this nature to support internal practice, bolster grass root efforts, and provide visual resource professionals with a roadmap for asserting fair use.

“The VRA Statement on Fair Use will and has already served as an important resource for VRA members as they seek to understand and advise others on intellectual property rights issues within their local institutions. Gretchen’s leadership in the development of this statement is an indicator of how she values the VRA and has placed the visual resource profession and her colleagues high on her long list of priorities,” Jen Green wrote.

Gretchen Wagner's commitment to our common mission for access to cultural heritage is a brilliant contribution. She truly deserves our recognition as the 2013 Nancy DeLaurier Award recipient.