Jeanne Hyland

July 23, 2015

US Copyright Office
Regarding: Notice of Inquiry on Copyright Protection for Certain Visual Works.

To those proposing the new US Copyright Act

As a person who has made their living as an employed & a self-employed graphic designer (25+ years) and and artist/instructor (15+ years), I am opposed to the current proposed changes to the copyright act that would seriously endanger my ability to continue making a living from works that I create… and am the sole copyright owner of. It has not been a hugely lucrative field as it is. Placing the onus on creators of visual works to register their work to avoid loosing copyright is absurd. There are so many potential inadvertent reasons a work might not get registered in some appropriate way, timeframe or other legality and copyright get passed on to another entity lying in wait to capitalize on it's use. Also adding, most likely, additional costs and more hoops to jump through to an already overburdened schedule and marginal income is just downright unfair and counterproductive.

I have a BFA degree, years of experience in commercial and fine art, am currently on the Board of Directors of the National Watercolor Society, and a member of numerous other organizations. My work has won national awards and been displayed nationally & internationally. It is the MAIN source of my income either by direct sales (with me retaining copyright), use as advertising for my art workshops, commission work, licensing, etc. In fact, my artwork often GAINS in value once published and/or displayed. And I do often reuse my own images for promotion, giclée prints and other methods of creating sales – which I have control over.

Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA

ARTIST INSTRUCTOR DESIGNER

Giving up my copyright or having to spend numeral hours filing registrations for every little piece is really an inordinate burden to place on artists or creators.

My husband has also spent years in the commercial photography industry starting with a commercial degree from Brooks Institute. His last job was involved in stock photography and prior to that, years in the catalog and magazine design and printing industry. We have BOTH seen scores of designers, artist & photographers – content creators – struggle to make a living. Handing the one asset they have – the COPYRIGHT in their work – will further dissuade people from continuing in or starting into this line of work. Who will then CREATE new work???

Sincerely yours,

Jeanne Hyland