Aquarelle Studios & Galleries Inc.

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July 22, 2015

Dear Copyright Office:

I am a visual artist residing in South Florida. I am a professional artist, and have operated my art business for 20 years, creating original works of art, and selling limited edition giclee prints of my works on canvas and paper. I also teach at venues across the country, and hold signature membership in several large prestigious art and watercolor societies across the country. I exhibit my original works of art in solo exhibitions, as well as juried exhibitions across the country. Articles about me, and my artworks, have appeared in nationally distributed magazines including Watercolor Magic, The Artist's Sketchbook, and on the cover of Watercolor Artist magazine. Images of my artwork has appeared in 4 nationally distributed books including "Splash 10," "Splash 11," "Splash 14," and "Artistic Touch #4" as well as "The Best of American Watercolor Artists."

Publication of my art in nationally recognized publications has not reduced the value of my original artworks, which sell for several thousand dollars each. Controlled publication serves to promote my name recognition, and national recognition of my art. It generates invitations for me to travel across the country, to teach workshops, to speak at conferences, and goes a long way toward filling the seats at all those venues. All of these publications required me to sign affidavits that the work of art was mine, original, conceived solely by me, and created only by me. These publications and venues have credibility, and the art community recognizes that they can be trusted to be valid representatives of the artist.

I have learned that you will be voting on a change to the copyright law as it pertains to Visual Arts, and I am in total opposition to the proposed change. This change would impact me and other visual artists in a terrible way, both financially and emotionally. I work extremely long hours, and I put a lot of sweat and time into developing my artworks, framing them myself, shipping them across the country, having my works printed in limited editions, packaging them, and marketing them. I spend a lot of money in advertising, and most of the time I struggle to keep up financially. I have taken strides to monitor others' use of my images, and have had to serve notices to violators of my copyright, all of which have since been resolved. Any law that would weaken the legal ground I stand on to claim copyright for my works of art, and would make it easier for "art hackers," so to speak, to profit by their reproducing my art without my consent and without legal recourse on my part is totally unacceptable, and unconscionable.

Please do not approve the new copyright law as it is being written. Please do not vote this into legislation, or allow it to be voted into legislation.

Artists have a difficult enough time surviving without being dealt this terrible blow.

Don't let it happen!

Sincerely,

Jaimie Cordero, sdws, fws, mws