Dear U.S. Copyright Office,

I am writing to you to urge you to resist the pressure from large internet firms to relax copyright laws for unregistered art work.

My name is Jane Levy Campbell. I have been a professional artist for 35 years, and although my work has reached a high level of professional skill, it is already extremely difficult to make a living as a working artist.

Many of my paintings take hundreds of hours, months to complete. It would be unfair for a company or individual to lift an image of mine off the internet or to photograph it in an exhibition and be able to use it to make money selling notecards, calendars, posters, etc. with no agreement with me or compensation to me. In fact, some of these possible uses would be in direct competition with my own attempts to market my work as cards, etc.

My posting of a work on my own website or social media posting is a necessary part of marketing my work these days. It is not meant to put these images in the public domain. There could be a terrible consequence of vastly diminished American creativity and inventiveness if copyright laws are weakened.

To be forced to register each and every work with a commercial registry would add another layer of time and expense to hard-working and barely profitable endeavors. And the registries, again, an entity that didn't put in all the hard work and expertise, would profit from fees they charge, whether or not the hard-working artist ever makes any money from the sale of the work.

Please reconsider the contemplated changes to the copyright laws. Artists should automatically retain copyright to their work unless they specifically sell or sign away those rights for any given piece.

Thank you,

Jane Levy Campbell