July 23, 2015

Dear Committee Members:

I am an amateur watercolor artist. I am a Signature member of the Southern Arizona Watercolor Guild (SAWG) and an Associate member of National Watercolor Society. I paint because it is a form of relaxation and creativity. I am able to go inside myself and take my personal experiences as well as my perception of places, things, and people and creatively render them in a way that is pleasing to me.

I show my work regularly in shows. I post my work on Facebook, Twitter, and I have an electronic page on the SAWG website's Virtual Gallery. These are my visions and techniques that I have been building for 15 years one day at a time. I paint most days a week, even if it is just a few minutes in the morning before I go to work.

A copyright law that gives me exclusive rights to my visions and artwork is important. Although I am an amateur, it should be my decision who has a right to use my art and how it is used. It is highly unfair to permit someone else to profit monetarily from my work that took hours to create by conveniently grabbing an image without my knowledge or consent. If this were an object, it would be called theft and I would want you to consider it theft even though it is a digital image of an object.

I ask in good faith that you protect artists from plagiarism and theft. Thank you.

Best,

Kat Manton-Jones, SAWG