To whom this may concern, 7/23/15

I, Jean Benvenuto Stith, am an artist and visual arts educator, and I have worked in these capacities my entire career (48 years). I am writing to express my concern for the impending changes to the current copyright laws for illustrators and visual artists. When I post my photographs of original images of my art on *Facebook*, in e-mails or my website it serves purposes only centered upon self-promotion.

I am a painter, a fine artist, my work has been exhibited in numerous museums and galleries in the mid-Atlantic region. I reserve the right to determine who may use my artwork, who may sell it and how my artwork may be used. Because I rely upon the web to market my art, that very opportunity potentially increases the likelihood of a sale and, therefore, enhances the inherent value those products have for me. The earning potential is exponentially increased on the web; it is my warehouse and my store front! I reject the premise that putting my art on the web removes my right to the earnings from and control of that image.

Please, assist me in protecting this very personal part of my livelihood.

As an art teacher in the public school system I earnestly communicate, to even my youngest students, the value of original artwork, their original artwork! To copy is to cheat, period. It's that simple. The College Board requires that plagiarism be explained to each student enrolled in Advanced Placement Art and that it be in my syllabus. Routinely I ask of my students "from where did this image come, what are you referencing, or may I see your supporting design work in your sketchbook", because I am well aware of how easy it is to scam the creative process on the internet. The site *Tin Eye* exists precisely to determine from where an image may have been appropriated.

Why does patent law exist? Please reconsider the Orphan Works and Digitization legislation.

Thank you,

Jean Benvenuto Stith
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