270 Arts, Inc.

Jon Messer Architectural Illustration

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U.S.Copyright Office
101 Independence Ave. S.E.
Washington D.C. 20559-6000

Dear Sirs,

My name is Jon Messer, and I am a professional self imployed artist and illustrator and have supported myself and my family this way since 1984.

I provide architectural renderings for architects, urban planners, and developers as well create original illustrations for marketing, advertising, and illustrations for published children's books. I also am a fine artist and sell my painings. I also sell multiple prints of my artwork.

I am imploring you not to change the copyright laws that protect artists from being taken advantage of. It took years to create the laws and they protect our rights. Without them artists cannot bargain for fair prices on their original creations. I have personal business experience with clients who have tried to capitalize on and market posters and other point of purchase items with my imagery and pay me nothing for this useage. The copyright laws protect me and I are the basis for fair negotiations, or prevention of harm.For me this law has been a cornerstone of professional business practice and I and my family would suffer lost income if it were to change.

Artists should have the right to be entrepeneurial in the creation of bulks of work that they can sell or license at will. Changing the law would create a disincentive for artists to work and create independantly. Why bother if you cannot capitalize to your own creation.

If one of my personal works ended up marketed by someone I had no business agreement with, what would I be able to do about it? This would not be fair. Conversely, I would not consider unfairly using someone else's original imagery, without expecting to pay for the useage.

If I show a piece of artwork even on the internet to promote myself, that does not mean I give others the rigght to capitalise on my creation, it is simply a way for me to promote myself and possibly generate sales. Sales for me, the professional artist, not sales for some company I don't have an agreement with.

In fact in this digital age my inventory of images is the cornerstone of my business. If the law changes it would be like giving strangers the right to enter a store, pilfer at will with no legal consequences.

Please do not change the copyright laws that protect artists from predatory practices.

Signed,

JON N. MESSER

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