Issue - Copyright Reform re Safeguarding the Rights of the Artist 18th July, 2015

To Whom It May Concern

My name is John Green, I'm a watercolor artist and I want to contribute to the discussion about potential changes to Copyright law.

When I retired from the aerospace, defense and metals industries in 2001, I decided I wanted to learn to paint with watercolors and to focus on landscape and floral paintings. After several years of taking courses and many, many hours of practice, I feel I have achieved some modest success-- the reader may evaluate this for himself (http://JASGreen.zenfolio.com) .

During the past 14 years, I have undertaken a few commissions , sold several paintings and many prints. More recently, however, I have enjoyed donating original paintings to various schools or charities for their own fund raising. So it is important to maintain the copyright ownership of my paintings. By setting up a website of paintings for friends and family to enjoy, and to show paintings for possible sale, I do not feel I have lost ownership of the paintings, nor should I in the future lose copyright ownership of the paintings. Instead, by presenting paintings in this way, they become part of my overall business inventory. Also, I strongly disagree with the assertion that once a painting has been published it has no further commercial value, and therefore should be available for use by the public.

Accordingly, as a hobbyist and after my investment of time and treasure, I would not appreciate someone tinkering with my paintings and thereby monetizing them for their profit without my knowledge or consent; this is essentially stealing! In fact, if this situation were to be permitted under new copyright law, I would consider it to be unjust and an absolute outrage. The only recourse I would have then as an artist would be to cease publication of my paintings and take down my website as soon as possible. In this context, it is interesting to note the recent news bulletin where the vocal artist and composer, Taylor Swift, successfully shamed Apple Inc. into paying to make use of the vocal artist's material. Why shouldn't the graphic artists and their products be treated in a similar manner?

Thank you for your consideration of the matter.

John Green

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