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July 19, 2015 – Addendum to letter of July 18, 2015

Maria A. Pallente
Register of Copyrights & Director of U. S. Copyright Office

Dear Maria and your constituents,

In 1990, after working in business for many years, I got back into art. Then, when my oil paintings became thick, I tried sculpture and loved it! I created 14 bas-relief bronze portraits for the National Cosmetology Association. After that, I created a clay sculpture of my old dog Anna. Bronze dogs, dachshunds in particular, are what I am known for. My works have earned many awards, including the National Sculpture Society Silver Medal; the Society of Animal Artists Award of Excellence, as well as quite a few Best-in-Shows and Museum acquisitions.

The proposed changes to the copyright law would not only hand a huge blow to my income by giving others the right to reproduce my work without my knowing it, but would also hand a blow to my ego! Last month a woman contacted me about how to fix a broken Chinese resin copy of my bronze bookends. My bookends sell for $3200US, and her knockoffs were $14.95US at Home Goods. How would you like that??? For me, copyright law is not an abstract legal issue, but the basis on which my business rests.

I understand Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution states that we authors (artists) have the rights to our work. Please, do not let greedy infringers take away artists' means of making a living. We are essential! Why else would someone want our work??? If someone wants my work, they may buy it from me. They may not infringe (steal) my work. It's important to my business that I remain able to voluntarily determine how and by whom my work is used. My work does NOT lose its value upon publication, except when publication is by someone unauthorized by me! Instead everything I create becomes part of my *business inventory.*

As it is, I am going to have to pay my web-master a big chunk of money to add copyright notice to each photograph on my site. Copyright notice is in the type, but this whole new law smells of something not at all pleasant. I was so happy when I got all my art registered. By so doing, I felt as if I someone was protecting me from greedy thieves AKA copyright infringers.

Maria, please leave the law as is. Life is too short to have to find another line of work at age 70.
Many thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Joy Kroeger Beckner -- www.joybeckner.com