KRIS WESTERSON
fresh handmade paper & magic books

July 21, 2015

United States Copyright Office
101 Independence Ave, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20559

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Kris Westerson and I am an artist and have been one for seven years. Although I have multiple sources of income my main energy goes into creating original new works in the medium of hand papermaking, book arts, and poetry. I have taken community classes in these media and have shown in regional and local art shows winning best of in the category of papermaking and book arts. I have also been awarded grants from city and community grant making organizations to continue my work with the community.

For me, copyright law is not an abstract legal issue, is the the basis on which my business rests. With every piece I make I copyright the designs and images on the handmade paper. I have also registered my copyright for different series of works with this office. Making a living from making art is challenging enough, what with the idea that anyone can be an artist, but when a copyright is infringed it is like stealing money out of my pocket.

My work does not lose its value when it is published. Instead it is given a broader audience to appreciate and relate to what I am saying as an artist. To that end it is essential that I remain able to determine voluntarily how and by whom what I create or my work is used. Everything I create is part of my business inventory and is used on handmade paper and in artists' books.

The digital era we are living in is remarkable. It makes my work as an artist accessible to so many more people from all over the world. What once might have taken years to share now takes seconds and that leaves more time to make work and a completely new platform to reach patrons. This makes my inventory more valuable than it was before the rise of digital communication.

Please do not change the copyright law so anyone else can get access to my creative product. Without original work by artists with copyright retained by artists what would our world be?

Sincerely,

Kris Westerson
1627 Waterstone Lane
Charleston, SC 29414