July 23, 2015

[Docket No. 2015–01]
Copyright Protection for Certain Visual Works
AGENCY: U.S. Copyright Office, Library of Congress.
ACTION: Notice of Inquiry.

Dear Committee members:

I am a working visual artist whose income depends upon my visual creations and imprints. I have an illustration degree from Minneapolis College of Art and Design.

Typically, an artist's signature on a painting or any work of art has been enough to identify it as an individual and original piece of art. Due to Internet accessibility, artists such as myself have taken to placing watermarks of the word "copyright" over the face of images shown to the public for display.

From what I can see of this copyright protection act, it is sorely lacking in intellectual and artistic property protections. Indeed, it seems to grant public license and encouragement to companies and individuals, particularly those versed in web design and Internet activities, to pirate artists' works. While this may be acceptable for some ancient works, it is never and should never be acceptable for a living artist who makes her living creating art, graphic design, computer illustration or photography.

Not only do I sell my original works of art, but I also "lease" the images to magazines and other publications for one-time use. That means that unless I or a publisher states otherwise during a sale of an original, the creation of the imagery still belongs to me, and me alone. Those who drafted the wording for this "copyright protection" do not understand that.

I have neither the time, nor interest, nor financial standing to register every one of my works with a public entity. It smacks of Big Brother interference. Such a move would burden me, as well as create impractical jobs with said entity, taking money from tax coffers. Artists are not public fodder, nor is their work. I am an individual and expect to be treated with the freedoms granted me in the U.S. Constitution, primarily the freedom from government interference.

Sincerely,
Terry Cox-Joseph (digitized signature)

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