To: Catherine Rowland,
Senior Advisor to the Register of Copyrights
U.S. Copyright Office
Regarding the Notice of Inquiry on Copyright
Protection for Certain Visual Works

Dear Sir:

This letter is in opposition to the proposed changes to the US Copyright Act. As an oil painter, I depend on this current law to guard my paintings and prints against cheaply made copies and imitations. You asked for responses to the special problems visual artists face regarding copyrights.

1. I think your last question is the most important one: What are the most significant challenges I would face if the new copyright proposals become law. I depend on selling my works world- wide through an internet site. Without copyright protection, the images I post of my work would be open for anyone to copy. There would be no way for me to legally stop this. With today's digital technology anyone could take my image which took me days and weeks to paint and paste it on their T-shirts, coffee mugs and cheap prints.
2. You asked for what are the most significant challenges for copyright protection of my art. This would be the constant searching for images of my work throughout stores and other sites Secondly, taking the culprits to court and /or finding out who is responsible for the copying, particularly if it was done overseas.
3. Having the current copyright law in place is a definite deterrent to others copying my work. It's not perfect but it guards all the time, expense, and creative tears I put into making paintings that make the world a better place. Much of my work goes to charity auctions.
4. Art now is open to everyone because it's on the internet. To prevent anyone from copying my work the current copyright law must stay in place. Would Apple want their creative work open for anyone to copy? Would the US Defense offices want their new weapon ideas open for anyone to copy? Would Coke want their idea for a new soda open for anyone to copy? Why are my paintings different?

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