July 20, 2015

Dear Copyright Office,

I have been an artist all of my life and earning a living as a professional artist since 1983 when I graduated from the University of Utah. I am a graphic designer, illustrator, and a fine artist painter with my work selling in two galleries.
My graphic design and illustration have won national awards and been published in books and magazines. I have licensed my art to be on products. My art is my work, it takes time and it's how I make my living.

The proposed changes to the Copyright Act are frightening. I create artwork for usage on particular client projects, but then if I choose to, or can find another opportunity for a different usage, I can license that artwork and earn additional money. Honestly, I feel these proposed changes to the Copyright Act are very unfair to artists. We pay for a college education, spend money on materials, pay for studio space in which to work, cultivate our craft with years of experience, spend many hours, days and sometimes weeks creating a piece of art. Do you think it is fair that anybody can grab our art off the internet and use it to sell their product or market their company to profit themselves without compensating the artist who created it? It makes me feel like society thinks that my vocation is worthless, but I know it is very valuable or people who cannot do what I do wouldn't want to steal it.

My inventory of artwork is a valuable asset to me. I ask that you help protect artists by not allowing this proposed copyright reform.

Sincerely,

Traci O'Very Covey