July 19, 2015

Maria Pallante
Register of Copyrights
U.S. Copyright Office
101 Independence Ave. S.E.
Washington, DC 20559-6000

RE: Notice of Inquiry, Copyright Office, Library of Congress
Copyright Protection for Certain Visual Works (80fr23054)

Dear Ms. Pallante,

For over 35 years I've been an artist and more recently also an illustrator. Both are the same but there is more work that involves licensing work in the illustration field. My work in the illustration field focuses on writing and illustrating children's books. I just recently heard that we are in danger of losing the current copyright laws here in the US and think the proposed law would be severely detrimental to artists creating original work.

1. What are the most significant challenges related to monetizing and/or licensing photographs, graphic artworks, and/or illustrations?

People using my images on their products would be a major problem because my images are my assets and I use them to sell products myself.

Also, I am fearful of publishers wanting to control the rights to my images.

2. What are the most significant enforcement challenges for photographers, graphic artists, and/or illustrators?

Legal fees and the proposed orphan works policy.

3. What are the most significant registration challenges for photographers, graphic artists, and/or illustrators?

Because I've been a painter for over 40 years, and I've been working under current law where the work I produce is my property, it would be impossible for me to even locate much of my work, never mind register it. Also, the time involved would take away time from working on current projects. I would probably just have to give up on new work because it would do me no good to produce it.

4. What are the most significant challenges or frustrations for those who wish to make legal use of photographs, graphic art works, and/or illustrations?

There are no challenges or frustrations for those making legal use of anything. Currently if someone wants to use an image of mine, I can grant them permission and often do. Likewise if I want to use someone's image I ask permission and am usually given permission. My own work is produced with my own reference and things I make up out of my own head.

5. What other issues or challenges should the Office be aware of regarding photographs, graphic artworks, and/or illustrations under the Copyright Act?

Although I don't know very much about it, there is a lot of confusion and mystery surrounding the issue of resale royalties. We currently don't receive any in the US.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my concerns.

Respectfully,
Doreen E. Lepore
Painter, Writer, Illustrator
www.doreenelepore.com

Bio.

Doreen E. Lepore has been an artist for 35 years. Her works have appeared in juried exhibits, local and national publications and are included in numerous private collections. Her impressionistic oil and pastel landscape paintings are inspired by Florida's pristine beauty. She donates a portion of all proceeds to help fund environmental causes.

Local Exhibitions Include:

A.E. Backus Museum, Best of the Best, Ft. Pierce, FL

Armory Art Center, W. Palm Beach, FL

Court House Cultural Center, Annual Juried Exhibitions, Stuart, FL

Elliot Museum, Stuart, FL

Lighthouse Art Center, Landscapes, Tequesta, FL

Norton Museum, W. Palm Beach, FL

Souvenirs of Downtown Plein Air Invitationals, Ft. Pierce, FL

Current Memberships:

American Impressionist Society, Inc., Oil Painters of America, Plein Air Florida and Women Painters of the Southeast

website: doreenelepore.com