July 21, 2015

Maria Pallante
Register of Copyrights

U.S. Copyright Office
101Independence Ave. S.E.
Washington, DC 20559-6000

RE: Notice of Inquiry, Copyright Office, Library of Congress
Copyright Protection for Certain Visual Works (Docket No. 2015-01)

Dear Ms. Pallante and the Copyright Office Staff:

I appreciate your time and consideration as I convey my disagreement with this potential change in the copyright laws. I have been a professional artist for the last 15 years and as this is my second career, I came to much later in life. So I feel there is a time constraint in finally getting to attain my artistic goals and dreams, this late in life. I have worked as a production artist, muralist, art instructor, creating original fine art and commissions as well as licensing my art to a print company. As an entrepreneur and sole proprietor it takes many avenues of work to create a meager living as an artist today. This law change favors once again the large image banks and corporations over the little guy.

My copyrights are my financial assets as well as my future earnings. Licensing them is how we make our livings. The create process takes hard work, trial and error and the successes we as artists have is hard earned and is developed over time. The changes now being proposed by orphan works lobbyists would put an end to that kind of success for me and prevent younger artists from a chance at success.

I can only imagine what would happen to our countries future successes in advancement of technology if this were to be proposed to patent offices.

> Artists are usually sole proprietors, in charge of our own employment, with none of the benefits corporate employees have. Each work of art we create has to live on in providing a future income for us all. Our images thru licensing, sales of reprints of our originals as well as for use in self-promotion in order to gain future assignments, commissions and sales.
> To register those images, the artist would have to locate them, unframe them if necessary, scan them, spot them, color correct them, keyword and catalog them, return them to their files or frames, add metadata and fill out registration forms for each one for at least two registries. All of that would take thousands of hours. And all this non–income-producing time would have to be stolen from time that the artist would otherwise be using to create new work.

Studio: 804-379-0016 Cell: 804-239-5066 Email: Gloria@gloriacallahan.com
www.gloriacallahan.com

I've been a professional artist for over 15 years. Most of my own work has been done under the current copyright law, was done under the existing copyright law. Making so little profit as an artist there is no way I can afford the expense to register each of my works, at my age. Operating my business takes an enormous amount of time and most of the profit I make. Leaving me even less time to create new work.

I fear under the proposed law changes there is little chance to stop infringers from harvesting my "orphans" and Photo shopping them into cheap "derivatives." I and every other artist in the world would then have to compete at a disadvantage against commercial infringers licensing ghosts of our own works.

The best solution for artists would NOT be to re-introduce registration, but to do away with it entirely, as has been done with copyright registration in the rest of the world.

As an art teacher I try to convey the importance of respecting copyright law and the artist's creation. Teaching students and the general public to respect artistic copyright is an uphill battle and if congress can't see the benefits of copyright protection for artists I'm not sure we stand much of a chance.

I write my blog to lend other self taught artists a helping hand in learning their craft. The countless hours of practice and trial and error add up to a steep learning curve for most artists, classically trained or not. Most artists are giving souls, but our images are our bread and butter. We all strive to police the internet of image theft and protect our hard earned images to no little success. But we try anyway.

Although not perfect, I do support Congressman Jerrold Nadler's American Royalties Too (ART) Act of 2015. It may not be a perfect solution to the current black hole that is reprographic licensing in the US, but it contains a provision that would create an honest visual arts collecting society that would begin returning lost royalties to artists. This would at least start to bring transparency, accountability and justice to artists' secondary licensing rights, and I thank the Copyright Office for recommending this bill to Congress.

I urge l you to please hear our creative cries of protecting the natural resource artists provide the US – creativity!

Sincerely,

Gloria J. Callahan
Self Employed Artist

Studio: 804-379-0016 Cell: 804-239-5066 Email: Gloria@gloriacallahan.com
www.gloriacallahan.com

I am a self-taught artist I have shown my vibrant colored pencil paintings both Nationally and Internationally as well as in and around the state of Virginia in juried exhibitions. Having won awards for her colored pencil paintings in many of these shows. My work has being published in Northlight Book's "Strokes Of Genius Vol. 6" Oct., also in the 2012 December issue of CP Magazine, and the 2010 book "Best of Worldwide Artists - Charcoal, Pastel & Pencil Vol. I". My painting "English Garden Foxglove" was selected for the 2009 Scribbletalk.com's Annual Calendar, by the online membership. I have taught a workshops for the Art Educators of PA, Old Dominion Decorative Painters and locally for her many students. I enjoy speaking to various art groups about her favorite medium, colored pencil and it's place in a fine art.

I am a signature member of the National Colored Pencil Society (CPSA) & it's local chapter DC209, have been a member of the American Professional Artists League and locally a member of the Bon Air Artists Association, where I have been President and held many other offices, as well as a member of the Central VA Plein Air Painters. I am an artist in residence at the Crossroads Art Center where her paintings are on exhibit and may be purchased and at the West End Gallery, in Richmond, VA and online at Xanadu Gallery, in AZ. I have chaired fine art fundraising events for World Pediatric Project here in Richmond, VA for the past 3 years which benefit children in central America.

She has an Associates degree in Accounting from John Tyler Community College. Working in accounting for more than 20 years and raising a family occupied her life. Although she creatively worked with fiber, ceramics and landscaping at home she dreamed of making art. As Gloria's sons grew, she finally was able to pursue decorative painting classes. This led to over 9 years of decorative, mural and faux painting in her free time. Wanting a career change, in midlife she taught herself watercolor skills in order to become a contract colorist for a national art print company. For eight years Gloria was a subcontractor for this local art publishing company doing hand colored antique reproduction engravings.

She uses various tools borrowed from the experience she's gained from other media to enhance what can be done with colored pencil. Using at times 20-25 layers of pencil to saturate each colored pencil painting, it can be a time consuming media. She works using artist grade colored pencils utilizing only the highest lightfast rated colors. Layering the color onto archival quality papers and board. When working on board she seals her work with acrylic fixative and then 8 layers of archival UV varnish. Enabling her to then frame without glass much like an oil or acrylic painting.

Studio: 804-379-0016 Cell: 804-239-5066 Email: Gloria@gloriacallahan.com
www.gloriacallahan.com