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Dear U.S. Copyright Office,

I have been an artist for over a decade. I went to the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh to earn my BFA degree with an emphasis in drawing and sculpture. Over the last 10+ years, I've created wall murals, wrote/created pieces for magazine articles, and have sold my artwork online and locally. To make a living, I rely on having my art designs protected by copyright law. Without copyright protection, my intellectual property would be in jeopardy.

Another area that I'd like to pursue with my art is having my artwork licensed. However, without being protected by copyright, that would eliminate opportunities to make a profit from my artwork that I have spent countless hours to create. I believe that an artist's work/designs are of great value and should be protected. If an artist's work is not protected by copyright, it would lose its value in the creative marketplace/industry. Thus, leaving a large majority of artists without a source of income and livelihood for their creative efforts.

All of the pieces I have created over the years become my inventory. If anyone can freely use my art without my permission, it is like they are stealing money from me. When my work has been published it does not lessen the value of my art. In fact, within this highly digital age, an artist's work is more valuable and it should be protected. It is of great concern to me if my art is no longer protected by copyright.

I ask that you continue to protect the rights of artists in the United States. Artist's lives will be negatively impacted without their intellectual property being protected.

Sincerely,

Christine Lehto