US Copyright Office,
101 Independence Ave SE
Washington, DC 20559-6000

3 Mitchell Place
Port Chester
NY 10573

July 18, 2015

Dear Madam/Sir,

I would like to voice my strong opposition to the potential for copyright reform which would remove protections currently available to artists, writers and other creative professionals. I have been a professional artist for 10 years and am Co-President of the Mamaroneck Artists' Guild in Larchmont, New York. I am a Signature Member of the Society of Animal Artists and Artists For Conservation, as well as a member of the Southern Vermont Arts Center and the Salmagundi Club. My work has been featured in magazines in both the US and the UK; has been used to promote the Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking; has been exhibited at the Botswana Permanent Mission to the United Nations; and is included in a book I recently published of my field sketches of Tanzania.

In order to market my work, it is essential that I post it online – on my website, blog, social media and on pages run by the various organizations of which I am a member – as well as make it available in a printed form. Copyright is essential to my livelihood as it allows me to control the reproduction and use of my art by others. Much of my income derives from the sale of limited edition giclées (high quality reproductions individually signed and numbered by me), but the ability to sell my work in this format will completely disappear if copyright rules change and allow anyone to use my images for any reason they desire.

I also feel it is wrong to ask artists to pay a for-profit company in order to register their work and retain copyright. Not only do I create studio paintings but I sketch in the field, creating numerous sketches and drawings, all of which are an important part of my marketing. If I had to register each sketch and study, drawing & painting that I create, paying a for-profit company and filling out paperwork, this would have a disastrous effect on my business by increasing my administrative tasks, reducing my creative time, and by creating more fees for me to pay. It would effectively cripple my business and ensure that I could only market a small selection of the pieces I create in any given year because I would not be able to afford the time and money to register everything.

I cannot stress how strongly I feel on these issues and how changes will damage not only my career but that of every creative professional. Please do not throw my years of creative effort away by allowing companies and individuals to exercise control over *my* art.
Thank you for your time.
Regards

Alison Nicholls SAA AFC
www.ArtInspiredbyAfrica.com