BRENDA WILL KIDERA

PORTRAIT

STILL LIFE

FLORAL

WILDLIFE

LANDSCAPE

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To whom it may concern:

I have earned my living as a professional artist for 32 years, and I am absolutely horrified that the US government would even consider changing existing copyright laws that would relinquish an artist's control over their own work. No one except the creator of any work should have the right to use the art, or derivitives thereof, without the express permission of the artist, even after the artist is deceased.

There is no such thing as a "good faith infringer". These dishonest people only wish to steal art and pass it off as their own. I exhibit around the country at shows and personally know artists who have had their work stolen, had their works reproduced, and even had their work taken overseas and mass produced and brought back into this country cheaply, and the artists have gone out of business as a result.

I have served on the board of directors of the Baltimore Watercolor Society, Washington Society of Landscape Painters, and am a member of many other prestigious organizations. Part of what I do as a professional fine art instructor is to teach my students not to copy from art or photography that is not their own. It is illegal to plagarize the written word, copy music, copy movies, etc. I'm profoundly disappointed that stealing a visual artist's work is even considered as something that should be passed into law. To even make it a requirement to register each work with the copyright office would be a huge burden in itself both in time and financially.

What we do in order to make a living is extremely difficult and time consuming as it is. Giving our work away will only discourage many and put others out of business, making it impossible to earn a living.

The creative process involved in any of the arts is special and should be protected into perpetuity.

I strongly oppose "The Next Great Copyright Act" (what a ridiculous name) for all visual artworks.

Brenda Will Kidera