To: U.S. Copyright Office

July 22, 2015

From: Carla O'Connor, Artist
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Gig Harbor, WA 98335

I am an artist and painter and have practicing my craft first in oil, then acrylic and now water media for about 50 years. I have a degree in Fine Art – painting from Kent State University in Ohio. I married an Air Force officer right out of college and have worked privately in the United States, Canada and Europe as an artist and teacher. You can see more of my work and credentials at www.carlaoconnor.com. I'm happy to say I have won a number of awards from The American Watercolor Society, The National Watercolor Society and from organizations in Europe and China.

I understand that your office is involved with changing the current copyright law and that these changes would liberalize the criteria for using work images when the creator of these images cannot be found. I am quite alarmed by this and hope clearer minds will prevail and preserve my rights to images of my work whether or not someone looking to copy these images can claim not to have found the copyright owner through some half-hearted search. We find ourselves in an environment where digital reproduction of an artists work product can be done a world away without the artist's knowledge. The current U.S. copyright law is a last line of defense against enterprises that would rather create their advertising on the cheap instead of employing artists or paying for their work. Unscrupulous people make cheap copies of artwork in some sweatshop or through a digital copier and sell them by the dozens well out sight of the original artists. Original artists have a hard enough time making a successful career in our society without having to fight against unlicensed use of our work product.

Please leave our copyright protections in place.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my concerns.

Carla O'Connor