July 23, 2015

Maria Paliante
Register of Copyrights
U.S. Copyright Office
101 Independence Ave.SE
Washington DC 20559-6000

Re: Notice of Inquiry, Copyright Office, LIbrary of Congress

Copyright Protection for Certain Visual Works

I have been a working artist most of my adult life. I started out as a graphic artist and illustrator - my illustrations were in used in such places as tech manuals, presentations, educational materials, historical associations, promotional pieces and auctions for non-profits. I am presently a freelance botanical and nature artist exhibiting my work in Museums, botanical gardens, galleries and at colleges/universities.

I have a degree in Biology and Art as well as a Certificate in Botanical Illustration. I am an active member in the Guild of Natural Science Illustrators as well as the American Society of Botanical Artists. I have attended numerous workshops and techniques classes over many years as continuing education to perfect my techniques. Many years, monies and efforts have gone towards developing the skills I have in producing the art I do.

Each piece requires many hours of research and renderings with a dedication to accuracy. I could never be paid the true value of each piece with the time and care I put into them. Although my paintings do sell occasionally, the way I make money is through prints and reproductions, which sell at a more accessible price, but afford me an income to continue my art.

I rely on my work being protected - the knowledge that my reproductions can be purchased through me and not stolen and used without my permission is paramount to my sales and continuing of my art. Just as the written word cannot be plagiarized or music cannot be copied, the hard earned labor of my illustrations should not be allowed to be stolen and used without compensating me and getting my permission.

Please do not change the copyright rules.

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