7/22/2015

Copyright Office,

I want to thank you for allowing me this opportunity to respond to the possible changes to the copyright laws. I have been earning a living as a professional artist for several years. I paint oil and acrylic, fine art paintings that I sell both locally and nationally. I have won numerous awards with the Kansas Art Guild, and have been published in the Aerobrush magazine. My paintings hang in many private collections across our great nation and abroad.

It is my understanding that when I create a new painting that it and all references of it belong to me through existing copyright laws. As you know, the existing copyright law of 1976, guarantees me, (the artist, and creator of the work) exclusive right to control my work from the moment that I create it, with no action or requirements to register it on my part. It is my work, and no one else's.

Copyright law is the very core that allows me to be successful in this field, and to be confident that I am protected from those that would unscrupulously monetizing my work without my knowledge, for their own profit. It is also my understanding that the new copyright law will in effect take away my right to control and have exclusive rights to my own work. The new law will allow other people take my work as their own, without my permission, to do with it as they please. I consider this nothing but theft, at its lowest form. It's important to my business that I maintain the ability to determine how and by whom my work is used. Infringing my work is stealing anyway you look at it. It takes money out of my pocket and food off my table.

I know that the push to reform the copyright laws are coming from large internet firms that have powerful allies in the legal field that I cannot fight, neither financially, or in a courtroom. These people want to steal my work and call it their own, for their own financial gain. I call it stealing. If these groups are allowed to prevail, it will put a wedge between me and my clientele. It will cost me money, time, and energy.

This industry is difficult enough, without having to worry about and fight an industry that is based on theft of other people's work.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I ask that you please protect the small artist and not the big corporation who is out to take away our livelihood. They have other ways to make money, without stealing from us. Many artists do not.

Sincerely,
Alan Brooks - Artist