Catherine Twomey

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Date: July 20, 2015

Maria Pallante
Register of Copyrights
U.S. Copyright Office
101 Independence Ave. S.E.
Washington, DC 20559-6000

RE: Notice of Inquiry, Copyright Office,, Library of Congress
Copyright Protection for Certain Visual Works (Docket No. 2015-01)

Dear Ms. Pallante and US Copyright Office:

My name is Catherine Twomey. I am a Board Certified Medical Illustrator and have been practicing since 1982. I am also a Fellow of the Association of Medical Illustrators (AMI). I have been self-employed since 1984. In addition, I am an award-winning fine artist and have been practicing that for the last decade. Over the years, I have created literally thousands of illustrations and artworks. When at all possible, I have negotiated to retain my copyrights and derive a revenue stream from licensing them.

Since starting my own business, I estimate that approximately 90% of my current income has come from relicensing images from my archives, both medical images and fine art. The last two years have been rough on my family. My husband lost his job. He found a new job out of state but was then diagnosed with kidney cancer, which was removed. However, one year later it was discovered that a huge aneurysm had developed at the kidney's surgical site. Again he had to have surgery, which was then followed by pulmonary embolisms. Several times, his life hung in the balance.

My husband is now recovering, but the medical expenses are unexpected, significant and ongoing. The re-licensing of my images, from "Da Vinci Piaffe Horse" to "Blue Ridge Blue Skyline Sheep Cloud" et al is extremely important to my livelihood and being able to cope with such expenses. Already, monitoring the continuous piracy of my images and constantly sending out Digital Millennium Copyright Act infringement notices eats into my practice – but doing so is much more manageable than what would happen if I were forced to pay to be in Registries and register each and every sketch, piece of art, etc. as is being considered for the new Copyright Law.

My work is precious. It is my greatest asset. The proposed "reforms" that would replace current copyright law would destroy my small business. The mass digitization of my intellectual property would destroy its worth, to the benefit of large companies intent on stripping away my rights in order to line their pockets.

It is with the greatest sincerity that I ask the Copyright Office to please take care to cause no harm to visual artists. Please take the time to work with visual artists to write policies to protect visual artists and their exclusive rights. Please retain the current Copyright Law that serves to protect our ability to subdivide our rights and have a sustainable practice.

With Deepest Respect,

Catherine Twomey

Catherine Twomey, Board Certified Medical Illustrator
Fellow of the Association of Medical Illustrators
ArtInPlace Mural Competition Winner
TED (MED) Award Recipient

Giliola Gamberini Award Finalist
Medicine Illuminated, The Lloyd Museum
William H. Benton Museum Exhibition