Carol F. Creech

Owner, CCreech Studio Art & Illustration

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U.S. Copyright Office

Hello,

My name is Carol Creech. I am a librarian by profession (for 20 years) and have been an artist all of my life, with a part-time art and illustration business since 2007 (CCreech Studio.) I received my education at Pennsylvania State University (BA, Geography) and the University of Michigan (MLS, Information and Library Studies.) I have taken illustration coursework at Brookside Gardens in Maryland for Botanical Art & Illustration, but am otherwise self-taught in the arts. My work includes building portraits, animal portraits, and accurate depictions of natural and botanical subjects. I am a member of the Guild of Natural Science Illustrators and the American Society of Botanical Artists.

This letter is in regards to the discussion of visual works and copyright law changes that are currently pending. Copyright law, as it currently exists, is vital to creative works, especially visual ones, in this age of digital technology. Now, more than ever, it is crucial to preserve the artist's rights to their own intellectual property in any form, from sketches and preliminary drawings to final pieces – from the moment of creation.

A given piece of artwork is not the result of one drawing session, but rather from hours of preparation, sketches, drafts and revisions that reflect the knowledge, experience and unique perspective of the artist. And all of that material becomes a part of my business inventory. Infringement of my works (of originals or creating derivatives from them) devalues that and has a direct, monetary impact on me and my business by allowing others to potentially profit from my creative output. It is the same as stealing.

Requiring me to register my works (past and/or future, sketches, drafts, or finals, etc.) or risk leaving them open for anyone to use for any purpose places an unreasonable burden on me as an artist and small business person. It should remain my decision as to who can use my work and for what purpose.

Any income from my art business is directly related to the control over the intellectual property of my artwork. It is the basis on which my business rests.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Carol F. Creech

CCreech Studio