US Copyright Office

Dear Sir or Madam,

I have been a professional fiber artist since 1981. I was educated in Sweden and in the US. An arts organization of which I have been a member for many years informed its membership this morning that there is a proposed change in the copyright law, which will affect all of us artists negatively.

Once I asked a copyright lawyer if I could make a print of a tapestry I had sold and sell the print; if the copyright of my work still belonged to me even if I had sold the work itself. I was told that the copyright belongs to me forever unless I have relinquished it in writing.

The proposed change which will require me to register every single thing I make. Otherwise it will be considered "orphan" and can be used by anybody and copied and sold for others to financially benefit from my work.

It is hard to understand how this can be considered fair to artists who make so little money as it is. The law as it is currently formulated and used works very well and needs no modification. The idea for the new law is clearly from Internet companies who want to comb the web and take out any picture they like and use it for their own winning. It is abusive and it is theft from hard working artists who pay taxes and in addition often donate their work to fund raisers for worthy causes.

Please keep the current protection for artists specified in the current copyright law. It is the only protection we have against exploitation.

Sincerely,

Anita Wolfenden