To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to request continued copyright protection for my art as it currently stands in the Copyright act of 1976.

Please do not reverse the ‘copyright exists upon creation’ premise, and instead require artists to pay a fee to register every design we want to protect.

Please do not also allow infringers to create and register derivative works, which would in turn make it even more difficult for me to make a living from my work because I would not necessarily be able to guarantee my exclusive use of my designs.

Please note:

1. Under current copyright law it is not necessary to sign, date or even put a © symbol on a work; so millions of artworks created since 1976 do not have attributions attached, making it difficult to identify the creators. I don’t feel it is ethical to release all of the work of those years to lose their copyright protection.
2. I depend on showing my art on the Internet in order to do business. The Internet poses an increased risk for art without appropriate credit to be shared, making it imperative for the Copyright Office to continue to recognize the ownership of these works, whether or not they carry the symbols or written credit wherever they may be shared.
3. I am a very prolific artist, creating hundreds of works every year. It would be prohibitively expensive and time-consuming to force me to register every design created in order to protect it (including past, present and future works). I hope to grow my business, but The American dream will be taken away from me if the government is allowed to charge me to protect my own artwork from theft.

Sincerely,

Melissa Jander, Artist