7/22/15

Dear Copyright Office,

I am writing to voice my opposition to the new Copyright Act that is being discussed to replace our current copyright law.

My concerns are that the new law will remove an artist's right over his/her own work and give it away to people who want to exploit the creativity of others. In addition, the only way for artists to protect themselves is to undergo a nightmare of registry procedures that will be costly, both financially and from a time standpoint. The burden of protection should NOT be on the shoulders of the artist.

I have been a professional artist for almost 35 years, originally in the graphic art field and now as a fine artist. I participate in national art exhibits every year, and sell my work through both brick and mortar galleries and the Internet. My work is my income and my brand, and is a precious commodity for me. Publishing work on the Internet is simply another way for me to advertise and sell my paintings. My work does not lose any value to me, or my business, in that act of publication. If another person or group takes my images without my permission, it is the same as stealing money from me.

The reality is that everything I create should immediately become part of my business inventory. And that inventory is more valuable than ever to me in this increasingly digitalized era. If a party wants to use an artist's work, they should be required to follow the commonly held manners of asking permission and paying a commission fee.

Please do NOT pass this new law. Instead, I implore you to protect our creatives and the copyright laws that give them the power over their own work.

Thank you for your consideration,

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