7-22-15

To Whom it May Concern,

Let me first say that I am a watercolor artist and have been for 22 years. I have a Bachelor of Fine Art from CU Boulder and I taught art at Pikes Peak Community College for 3 years and from my home studio for the last 6 years. My paintings have received awards and been juried into shows from prestigious watercolor societies like the National Watercolor Society, Transparent Watercolor Society of America, and Rocky Mountain National Watercolor Society. I have a painting published in the nationally known, Best of Watercolor book series - SPLASH. Recently my watercolor painting was juried into a watercolor exchange between the National Watercolor Society and a Watercolor Society in Shenzhen China. I am a ten year member of Arati Artists Gallery in Colorado Springs, CO.

I believe this new Copyright “reform” - The Next Great Copyright Act - should be voted down. This law will affect the very basis of my artistic business.

Most artists make little enough as it is from their work. To take away their inherent rights upon the completion of a work of art and require them to commercially register each piece to retain those rights is egregious for the majority of artists that struggle to make a living. It is important that our businesses remain able to determine voluntarily how and by whom our work is used.

My work does NOT lose its value upon publication. Everything I create becomes part of my business inventory and should not be dependent on my registration of each piece. Just as you expect to be paid for the work you have done, so does an artist. In this digital age, my creations/inventory are more valuable to me than ever before. I can choose to license my images as prints, cards, or other products as another source of income besides the sale of the original painting. If you pass this “reform”, you will be taking away a large portion of my income.

Please do not take the right for us to own our work and the expectation of fair compensation for its use.

Sincerely,
Lorraine Watry
Fine Artist