July 22, 2015
U.S. Copyright Office of Visual Works

To Whom It May Concern:
I have just received extremely DISTURBING NEWS about "The Next Great Copyright Act", which in my estimation as a photographer and visual artist is appalling. I have been working in the arts all my life and professionally as an educator, most specifically to young adults coming new into our great nation to immigrate for a better life than which they left.

If this Copyright Act passes, as an educator of the hopeful, arriving here daily, I would be ashamed to tell them that their dreams are pointless because there are those in our government and the private sector who have already taken away all their rights of ever being able to make a sound living with the God-given talents with which they were born. Instead, they will have to take whatever mind numbing, uninspired menial job they can find to make ends meet.

Could you, would you, ever feel good about seeing that spark of life in their eyes, with their creative talents ready to burst forth as an artist, be extinguished before you when you inform them that they have NO RIGHTS to maintain for ANY of their work: past, present or future with which to make a living?

Do you really want to obliterate our nation's cultural expression by way of destroying any way of promoting visual artists to thrive? Taking away our means of benefiting financially from our work is as good as stealing the food off our tables. If we are to survive in this economic world, which none of us can entirely escape, then we would have to seek employment elsewhere, leaving our artwork on the back burner for ALL of US to lose (you included) while we make money some where else outside of our studio.

Our country is one of magnificent diversity and inspiration for the world. Can you imagine the ripple effect the passing of this Copyright Act will have over the long run on our world cultural influence? How bland or non-existent our country would become on the world platform of inspiration.

The idea that our work loses its value once it's published is absurd. Consider the sources of that inspired statement: lobbyists and corporation lawyers. If that notion were true, then why in the world would we still be seeing and revering images from centuries ago of the "Great Artists of the World"? If anything is the case, when our artistic work is **PUBLISHED** and put out there to the **PUBLIC**, by the very definition: (adjective) of or concerning the people as a whole, open to or shared to all people as a whole country or area, or as a noun; (one's public) the people who watch or are interested in an artist, writer or performer, the value of our work INCREASES, by way of the masses' interests!

As working artists, we are business people as well, who intend to thrive from our "work". Therefore, our published work becomes more valued as it's viewed and is part of our artist's inventory; hence, property. As in accounting, the inventory: the entire stock of a business, including materials, components, work in progress and finished products, is vital to business solvency. In the competitive world market and digital age, inventory is valued more by us artists than ever before.

Please, reconsider the ramifications to the nation as a whole, as well as to us artists individually. The passing of this Copyright Act clearly would turn the tide of visual art profit to the covetous few and not to us who deserve the benefits: we who create the visual art. Grave travesties would ensue if such a narrow band of greed were to take what is rightfully our heritage. Our public's right to enjoy the passion and expression of the gifted and talented visual artists of our country would also be robbed. We would be off working in other arenas instead of being allowed opportunity to create, profit and live by our own hands and hearts of inspiration as visual artists.

Please feel fee to contact me:

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