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July 20, 2015
Maria Pallante
Register of Copyrights
US Copyright Office
101 Independence Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20559-6000

RE: Notice of Inquiry, Copyright Office, Library of Congress

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm writing to you as an award winning professional artist of almost 30 years. My work is in collections across the US and Canada, South America, England, Australia, and Germany. I am a Founder/Emeritus member of Plein Air Artists Colorado (PAAC), an Emeritus member of Women Artists of the West (WAOW), and an Associate member of Oil Painters of America (OPA) and International Plein Air Painters (IPAP).

Significant Challenges:
Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution guarantees each creator the exclusive right to his or her own work. Copyright law is the basis on which my business rests. Under the proposed laws my images would be used with money changing hands and I won't see any money. My images are in the Hilton Hotel in Omaha, and the Aspen Grand and Milwaukee Hyatt for which I was reimbursed according to contract. I am very concerned re the new copyright laws being proposed by the Copyright office to Congress. Under this proposed legislation I would be required to register all of my current and succeeding work, as well as drawings, with *Private Registries* for each work, spending many hours of non-income producing time and preposterous amounts of money to comply (amounts to me being an unpaid employee of the registry) and I would be forced to reveal my contact information on all my customers. These registries could then turn around and alter my work, create derivatives of my work and sell them without me ever seeing a dollar. This amounts to the legalization of the theft of private property.

Significant enforcement challenges:
In the new digital environment it has become mandatory to publish works online in order to make sales. Already I have seen my work online where I didn't put it and without my permission. I will never see any remuneration for this and yet, the new law is proposing mass digitization. Any image we post online be it a painting or a personal image would require me to register it with one of the private commercial registries who would then sell it to be used in an ad or worse and I would never see any money. This is a gross infringement of my intellectual property. These monies are crucial to my family. I may as well give my work away for free.

Under this new legislation, Lawyers who currently will take an artist's case on contingency to try and recover lost income would not likely take any infringement cases on orphan works. Our copyrights are our assets! It will be impossible for many artists to make a living.

Thank you for reading my letter. I hope that you recommend that visual art be excluded from any orphan works legislation.

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