Dear sirs
I am a painter. I am a visual artist. I have been creating art and participating invart shows and venues including online venues for over 30 years. In all that time I was assured that attempts by anyone to photograph copy or use my art without my knowledge or consent was considered a copyright infringement if my rights.
While I understand that publishers wish to have leeway in republishing works and or images without having to go on treasure hunts for permissions I am afraid that what helps them winds up hurting me as I am exposed to more uncertainty and potential image theft as well as losing ownership privileges. People regularly download images even when they clearly bear watermarks now. How much more theft will happen if the Orphan Works changes become the new standard? It will scarcely profit me as an artist if my works become callously used and traded by indivuduals, publishers and companies without my knowledge, consent or financial reimbursement.
Please protect the copyrights of visual artists. Thank you
Martha Yokawonis
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