440 Water Street, #102
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578
July 23, 2015

U.S. Copyright Office
101 Independence Ave. S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20559-6000

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a co-owner of an illustration studio, an artist and art educator who has been making a living, along with my husband, for about 40 years creating drawings, paintings and illustations on a commission basis for museums, corporations, publications, and personal patrons. We have had hundreds of clients over the years, thousands of students in my workshops, and hundreds of private patrons. We have and continue to be awarded (both monetarily and non-monetarily) with recognition by peers in our field for our individual artworks. Our conceptual illustration appears in many books, magazines and catalogs, and my scientific illustration appears in many university textbooks.

The drawings, paintings, and design-related illustrations made by an individual artist is his or her creation, uniquely communicating unlike any other person. These require training in practical skills, long years of practice, experimentation, editing and refining to establish one's own style and"visual voice." All those uniquely differing numbers of years of preparing before one professional artwork is made are dismissed, devalued and interpreted as "level" playing field when the finished product is merely in a line-up of uncopyrighted options available for the public's use without payment to the artist. There is no honoring of hard work, experience, and education in learning various methods to better communicate to differing people.

Beyond that, the artist loses the direct connection with and control of his/her creation in the final usage, putting at risk the artist's reputation built over decades of hard work and ethical business practices. It dismisses the God-given talent each artist is expressing.

My artwork is a huge part of who I am. It is part of what I offer others to make a collaboration that is mutually beneficial. This proposed legislation totally ignores this important business and personal collaboration and gift.

I want to express my vehement opposition to this legislation. I believe it will destroy the quality and integrity of our entire visual communication field, and put thousands of extremely gifted and hard-working artists out of work.

Rather than listen to the "actors" who do not make their livings creating unique works of visual communication, who have not been trained in visual communication and do not depend on even one day's worth of income from their own created visual communications, I ask that you listen instead to those of us who have decades of experience in this field and know the day to day relationships of artists, suppliers, publishers, patrons, account executives, corporation and small business owners and editors. I ask that you honor our judgment as we would hope to honor yours.

Above all....TRUTH MATTERS!

It is unethical and a lie for those who do not OWN the right to offer to others the usage of a creation that is not theirs. It is promoting plagiarism which is clearly a lie in every other field. Please act honorably on behalf of artists who DO own the right to their work.

With respect,

Rhonda J. Nass

Rhonda Nass
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