July 23, 2015

United States Copyright Office
101 Independence Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20559

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a visual artist working in the disciplines of printmaking and painting, and am writing to comment on US copyright laws and the protection of an artist's right to control the use of their creations and be fairly compensated. I do not pretend to understand the finer nuances in the wording of federal legislation, but as an artist I understand the importance of protecting the rights of visual artists.

I have been working as a professional artist for over 50 years, and derive income from the sales of my original art. Ownership of copyrights to all my work by default is essential to my livelihood, and any erosion of those copyrights will threaten that livelihood.

I strongly urge you to ensure that the artist maintain 100% control over the use of their creations in any media and context, and that this right be the default; that it be conferred without any action on the part of the artist beyond the creation of the piece of art itself. To have the rights of artists' original creative works usurped by other individuals or entities, is so totally against our inherent rights and protections of the freedom of expression, that it could be devastating to an individuals creative life.

Please make sure that the law protects the rights of its citizens and artists above all, and when necessary, over the rights of corporations – otherwise, we do not have a chance to rely on our creative expression as a way of life and livelihood.

Sincerely,

Peter Baczek