July 23, 2015

Dear Lawmakers,

I have a professional artist for 25 years. I retired from my second job in 2000 to work full time as a painter and fine art printmaker. My work is in the Library of Congress. I belong to the California Society of Printmakers and the second oldest artist owned gallery in the United States, the Carmel Art Association.

As you may know the pursuit of art making as a means of making a living is difficult. A strong copyright law is a protection for me as an artist. I feel that the current proposed copyright law is unjust and is not protective of my proprietary work. It will impact my income by creating open season on my business and my original, edition and published works. Any of my art in any form is part of my inventory. This inventory is of actual value to me whether digital or traditional. Just because it is easy to steal work due to technology I insist that the artist copyright be maintained and honored. The law should protect what is mine and mine alone.

I must be the one who determines how my work is used and by whom. If the Copyright Office admits that the *Orphan Works Act* will cause special problems for visual artists then how can they in good faith say that artists must submit to this unreasonable law.

The *Next Great Copyright Act* is a further invasion into the possibility of an artist to make a living in this country. I have to ask you if you would not insist on being paid for your work?

I have always felt that the Copy Right Office and those who make the laws had my back in this matter. Now I am looking over my shoulder to see if I will be stabbed in the back.

Please do not let this take away the value of my work. When I make the choice to publish work it gains value not less. Don’t take that opportunity away and hand it to a faceless user.

Thank you,
Pamela Takigawa