July 23, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a watercolor artist who has been working at my profession for fifty two years. When people ask me how long it has taken to do a painting, I think it is fair to tell them all my life. Few of us are master artist when we first pick up a brush. It takes years of perfecting our talent and skill to produce the paintings we have finally achieved over the years.

Here is a list of my publications and awards which I value as a professional:

Awards:
September 2000 - Third Place Award, Landmark Competition "Beach Sunrise"
January 2001 - Excellence Award, Frank Stick Memorial Art Show "Bathed in Sunlight"
April 2004 – First Place & People's Choice Award, local Silver Arts Competition "Tom"
October 2004 – First Place North Carolina Silver Arts Competition "Tom"
October 2004 – Winner of the Beach Book Cover Competition "Early Morning"
September 2006 – Honorable Mention, Landmark Competition "Turtle Pond"
January 2008 – Excellence Award, Frank Stick Memorial Art Show "Mother's Day Bouquet"
2008 – Cover of "Outer Banks Cuisine" cookbook by Becky Smith
May 2011 – People's Choice Award Mollie Fearing Memorial Art Show –"Tiger Azalea"
September 2011 – Honorable Mention 23rd Annual Landmark Competition, Elizabeth City, NC
February 2012 – People's Choice Award Frank Stick Memorial Art Show – "Crystal Bowl"
May 2012 – People's Choice Award Mollie Fearing Memorial Art Show – "Green Vase"
September 2012 – Honorable Mention 26th Annual Landmark Show – "Green Vase"
October 2012 – Eastern Region Award 67th Annual Watercolor Society of NC "Crystal Bowl"
October 2014 – Jerry's Artarama Merchandise Award 69th Watercolor Society of NC "Daffodil Fields"
February 2015 – Excellence Award Frank Stick Memorial Art Show "Roanoke Marsh Light"
February 2015 – Cover of the OBX Beach Book "Roanoke Marsh Light"

I strongly object to the passing of the Orphan Works Acts in Congress. With the economy today, it is getting more and more difficult to sell our work. If the Orphan Works Acts passes, it will almost become impossible. If everyone is allowed to reproduce our artwork what would be the point in paying for it? The Constitution has given us rights to the control of our work and livelihood. We are struggling to continue to produce our work and still make a profit without having to register it with commercial registries. Most of us can't make a living with just art alone as it is.

Since our copyrights are the source of our income, it is imperative that we are able to maintain our rights as artists to be protected with them. My whole business depends on these copyright laws. When we publish our work, it maintains its original value because it is protected by these copyright laws. For others to have the right to alter and copyright OUR work in their own names is unacceptable.

Sincerely,

Peggy Saporito