Maria Pallante

Register of Copyrights

U.S. Copyright Office
101 Independence Ave. S.E.

Washington, DC 20559-6000

RE: Notice of Inquiry, Copyright Office, Library of Congress Copyright Protection for Certain Visual Works (Docket No. 2015-01)

http://copyright.gov/policy/visualworks/comment-form/

Dear Ms. Pallante & U.S. Copyright Office Staff:

I have been a professional artist for twenty-seven years. I am an oil painter of western landscapes and portraits residing in Colorado. I earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Arkansas and a master's degree from the University of Oklahoma.

My "Portrait of Rosa Parks" was published in Montgomery River Region Sketchbook by Indigo Custom Publishing, Macon, GA. My painting "Where Buffalo Roam" was published in the article "Great Falls Synergy" Western Art Collector, March 2014. My paintings are in business and private collections including Good Samaritan Comprehensive Cancer Center, Lafayette, CO; International Association of Fire Fighters, Washington DC; Vermont Country Stores Scales Museum, Weston, VT; Caddell Construction Co., Inc., Montgomery, AL; High Plains Plastic Surgery, Amarillo, TX; and Ranch-Way Feed Mills, Fort Collins, CO.

Copyright law is not an abstract legal issue for me, but is the basis upon which my business is built. Artists' copyrights allow us to license artworks for products in order to earn our living through sales of products and reproductions of our original artworks. This means that anyone infringing upon our artwork is stealing our money. It is extremely important to our businesses that we remain able to determine voluntarily how and by whom our work is used in order to be fairly compensated for our creative works.

Our artworks do NOT lose value upon publication. Instead, everything we create becomes part of our business inventory. In this digital age, inventory is more valuable to artists than ever before.

In summary, the copyrights to our photos, artwork, and other tangible creative expressions are VALUABLE and enable us to determine how and where our work is used; which companies to work with, and what products we want our designs to be on. The U.S. Copyright Office needs to take the needs of visual artists and the Art Licensing community into consideration when drafting this new legislation.

Respectfully,

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