July 20th, 2015

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)

Dear Ms. Pallante and the Copyright Office Staff:

Thank you for taking the time to review the personal problems artists face in the marketplace. I would like to briefly point out how important it is to protect artists and creative ownership.

In the creative world, maintaining copyright and ownership of one's work is one of the only sources of income an artist has to live on. Even though other opportunities exist (speaking fees, instruction, etc), these opportunities are spawned from the commercial identity an artist has built out of the protection of their ideas. The practice of promoting "orphaned work" completely strips away the ability for an artist to protect their identity and integrity. It will cost practicing artists income, opportunities and valuable time (due to the need for legal battles). Artists have already suffered from work-for-hire contracts that strip copyright away, continuing to facilitate these practices will undermine the very concept of authorship altogether. I hope as you move forward on evolving copyright law, you will consider small business owners (artists) and the public interest for creativity.

Sincerely,

David Tenorio