July 22, 2015

Maria Pallante
Register of Copyrights
U.S. Copyright Office
101Independence 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)

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Dianne Annelli. I am a graphic designer and illustrator.
For over 25 years I have produced designs for clients and to build a portfolio of hundreds of pieces for sale, licensing and to attain royalties.

This letter is to address the problems an artist faces in a digital environment.

1. What are the most significant challenges related to monetizing and/or licensing photographs, graphic artworks, and/or illustrations?

As a freelancer I need to produce a weekly income in order to keep up with the everyday expenses that everyone else incurs. This is my job and has been for many years. If the copyright law is replaced I will have no way to make a living and will have to try and start a new career at the age of 57 with an elderly parent living with us. And my hard work will be free to anyone who wants to use it including big well-to-do corporations.

2. What are the most significant enforcement challenges for photographers, graphic artists, and/or illustrators?

The Orphan law would allow all my hard work to be free to anyone who wants to use it including big well-to-do corporations. It's hard enough to compete in this field as it is.

3. What are the most significant registration challenges for photographers, graphic artists, and/or illustrators?

There is no way I can afford to continue making a living in my field if I had to pay to sell my work!

4. What are the most significant challenges or frustrations for those who wish to make legal use of photographs, graphic art works, and/or illustrations?

There shouldn't be any. Use something for reference only or pay for it.

5. What other issues or challenges should the Office be aware of regarding photographs, graphic artworks, and/or illustrations under the Copyright Act?

The kind of system the Copyright Office has proposed to Congress is not reasonable. Again why should I pay someone huge fees in order for them to profit some ore from my hard work. Then I have to pay income tax on it all!

Thank you for reading my letter and I ask that you recommend that visual art be excluded from any orphan works provisions Congress writes into the new copyright act.

Thanks,

Dianne Annelli