To whom it may concern,

This new copyright law is completely wrong and in effect ends up making it able to outright steal art. It is impractical for artists to register each and every piece of art that they make and photograph that they take or have ever made. I am not an artist that makes a living making my art, I rarely sell any of them. However if someone saw my art somewhere out on the internet and decided to sell my work, I would expect compensation or the right to stop the company from stealing my work.

You are requiring artists to become burdened with an impossible task in trying to protect their work. It will create a free for all for infringers to take whatever work that is ever posted on social media. They could take a picture that I post, change it by removing my name or cropping and changing colors and then without my permission sell my private photo. This is not right! It is even worse for people who are NOT artists because they have no idea that their photos actually are protected right now under current law. If anyone had the right to monetize the picture it should be the person who took it.

The businesses that currently just pull images from the internet and then create a product to sell want to argue that their business is being hurt by having a hard time getting the images under current copyright law. Well there is a reason for that! The artist who creates the work should have the right to sell it (or to NOT sell it) as they are the creators of the work. We have copyright laws to protect companies who manufacture products. The design and engineering of those products have worth and value and people seem to understand that value. These companies understand that visual images have value and that is exactly why they are trying to undermine the current copyright law so they can STEAL the work from visual artists.

Dawn Collins – visual artist