July 21, 2015

Maria Pallante

Register of Copyrights

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)

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Ed Gorgen. I am a photographer and writer based out of Minnesota. I have publishing work since 2005.

I am writing to address the problems visual artists face in the new digital world we live in today.

1 . What are the most significant challenges related to monetizing visual arts that they face in this day and age?

As a freelance artist, I need to keep my revenue in order to make my living for my livelihood. The resale of my past art is my way of making a living. It's a valuable resource that produces income for my family and I. Any attempt to change our current copyright laws with a system that would benefit companies would endanger my ability to make a living. Companies have already started digitizing my work without my permission, and have not given me any money with their efforts. Why would the government favor companies and corporations instead of individuals who actually created new work?

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

The proposals that the Copyright Office has created to Congress really worry me. It is basically revising Orphan Works (OW) bill, but it's going to make it all worse. Orphan Works bills have strongly opposed by artists since they first appears ten years ago. A copyright law built on the orphan works law would make internet corporations suck the money dry from individual artists with their ideas of making a even bigger amount of money for themselves. A bigger challenge awaits individual artists who make a living creating new works because we have to go against huge companies with lots of money.

3. What are the most significant challenges for artists?

The proposed bill would become another challenge for any artist. No matter how small registries might change for the start, it is similar to banks: They would soon begin to introduce charges that will continue to grow as these companies will gain as competitive stronghold over freelance artists, including myself. Ignorant individuals who say this won't happen is only living in their own fantasy. Basically, if the government succeeds in making this legislation happen, the result would be that artists (like myself) will find ourselves being punished financially to maintain our images and other works for profit registries. As for the art we can't afford to register (or other means to register), all works will fall into this "non-compliance" world that is created at own overpriced expense, will be free to exploited by other leeches.

4. What are the most significant challenges or frustrations should the Office be aware of regarding photographs, and other art under the Copyright Act?

To make this conflict of interest not happen, it is EXTREMELY important that no artists who support this legislation be allowed to receive any money from the creation of copyright registries or notice of use registries. These artists organizations are only hurting artist, and furthermore, should not be able to use this legislation to make more money further off the original artists who are trying to create their own work, and make their own money.

Thank you for your attention on this matter. From the bottom of my heart, I urge you to recommend that any visual artists or any other art be excluded from any orphan works provisions Congress writes into the new copyright act.

Thank you,

Ed Gorgen