To Whom it May Concern,
My name is GIanna Weston, and I am writing to you as an aspiring comic artist; where I have been developing my craft for the past 12 years. I have received awards in recognition of my work and talent, and have gained a sizeable audience online due to my artwork and comics. I also provide commission work for people who wish to have something they would like drawn for themselves to use in my style. However, due to the newly proposed ideas that the Copyright Office is creating, there will be no point for me to offer commissions at all.
1. What are the most significant challenges related to monetizing and/or licensing photographs, graphic artworks, and/or illustrations?
Making a change to copyright law today will eliminate any chance I have towards becoming a freelance artist where I could live off of creating art. If people could take the artwork I make and use it without permission, and/or claim it as their own by photoshopping it to their liking, then the phrase "The Starving Artist" would drastically change to "The Dying Artist". It's not right that in order to not let people take what I created and use it as their own, I would have to purchase and register every doodle I create on a napkin to the largest masterpiece I paint on a canvas. If this act is put into effect, it will make a crime a completely normal and right thing to do.
2. What are the most significant enforcement challenges for photographers, graphic artists, and/or illustrators?
The most significant enforcement challeneges for me is the struggle artists have to go through in order to reclaim what WE CREATED from people who STOLE and USED what we made as if WE NEVER EXISTED. The costof filing a copyright infringement lawsuit is extremely high, which in most cases discourages artists (who are already poor) from taking back their creations. In addition, this Orphan Works policy being brought up again will justify people taking our working like it's a normal thing! For example, I spend ten hours of my life creating an original piece of artwork to sell. Then someone takes my artwork, takes my name off (or worse, leave my name ON), and then goes on and sells it for themselves. And this act will not let me say or do anything to stop this person or reclaim what money I have lost.
3. What are the most significant registration challenges for photographers, graphic artists, and/or illustrators?
Under law today, what ever I create with my hand is MINE, and that is how it should be. Under this new Orphan works law, I will have to register every piece of artwork I have and will make. So, since I'm an artist, theat could be thousands works and it would take years and a great amount of money that no right minded person will ever pay or spend to register each and every work they make. And what is the point of registering my work, if either way, I'll have no job? If I register all of my works, then I'll be wasting precious years of my life where I could have been creating more art. And if I don't register, everyone will take my art work and there will be no point in continuing.
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?
I don't have any challenges in using other peoples work or art because I credit them if I ever do, or I pruchase the work so I'm able to do so. However, I rarely do so, since I take reference from what i see in real life, my own pictures, and so on.

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

The Office should be aware that artists should be protected like any other person who either creates/fixes/works on anything. And the the fact that you are removing something that (it's not perfect) is currently protecting us, is wrong and we should just stick to what's not broken. We are in enough trouble as it is.

Thank you for you time and patience.

Gianna Weston