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RE: Notice of Inquiry, Copyright Office, Library of Congress Copyright Protection for Certain Visual Works (Docket No. 2015-01)

Dear Ms. Pallante & U.S. Copyright Office Staff:

I am a blogger and designer. As such photographs, graphic illustrations and representations are an integral part of how I make my living. Copyright is the basis upon which I do business.

Infringing on my work is the same as stealing money out of my pockets. Everything I create becomes part of my business inventory. And in the digital age, my inventory is incredibly valuable but also incredibly hard to protect. Licensing my work is how I make a living.

I have already had experience filing DMCA requests when others are using and monetizing my work without my permission online. I am extremely concerned that any rewrite of the Copyright Act of 1976 that does not protect works upon creation would result in even more piracy of my work and that of other artists like me. Without protection upon creation, I would not hold copyright to much of my work because registration costs would be prohibitive. Removing protection upon creation would make it much more difficult, if not impossible, for artists, photographers, designers and others in the visual arts to do this as a living and monetize in any meaningful way.

I do not welcome the idea of someone else monetizing my work without my knowledge or permission, and I would vocally oppose any legislation that would have the effect of rendering copyright only valid if formally registered.

Sincerely,

Heather Valentine
The Sewing Loft