To whom it may concern,

I am writing out of concern regarding the Notice of Inquiry on Visual Works issued by the U.S. Copyright Office.

While I am not a visual artist myself, I am concerned that the changes being proposed to copyright law will unfairly disadvantage those who are. Art is important to me, and so is the ability of artists to keep making their art without undue hassle or worry over whether they will still legally own their work once they show it to others via the Internet or in any other way. It seems to me a basic principle that all artists of any kind should own their work exclusively.

In particular, I am concerned that:

- “The Next Great Copyright Act” would replace all existing copyright law
- It would void artists' Constitutional right to the exclusive control of their work
- It would privilege the public’s right to use artists' work
- It would indirectly pressure artists to register their work with commercial registries
- It would “orphan” unregistered work
- It would make orphaned work available for commercial infringement by “good faith” infringers
- It would allow others to alter artists' work and copyright these “derivative works” in their own names, and
- It would affect all visual art: drawings, paintings, sketches, photos, etc.; past, present and future; published and unpublished; domestic and foreign.

These matters should be treated with great seriousness and with minute consideration for the ramifications of changes to existing copyright law. Many artists' livelihoods could be destroyed or dramatically altered because of appertaining decisions.
Where the U.S.A. leads, the rest of the world tends to follow. Please do not allow any changes to occur that would disadvantage artists anywhere in the world.

Sincerely,
E. Dobbs.