20 July 2015

Maria Pallante
Register of Copyrights
U.S. Copyright Office
101 Independence Ave SE
Washington, DC 20559-6000

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

It has just come to my attention that your agency and Congress are in the process of shaping a new Copyright Act. I understand that the deadline for input from citizens is 23 July, 2015. Because of this time constraint and my lack of experience, I don't have time to answer your 5 questions. You have received many letters from established artists that answer them in detail. I have read several of these and would like to just say that the letter from Brad Holland reflects my views very closely. He is an established artist and has first-hand knowledge about the current Copyright Laws and knows how the proposed changes in the Copyright laws would affect artists of all kinds. Mr. Holland states that to established artists, "copyright law is not an abstract legal issue. Our copyrights are our assets. Licensing them is how we make our livings."

I would like to add several comments to his:

I am now retired and am a beginning artist. I would like to be able to make a living selling my Watercolor paintings and my Stained Glass creations. However, under the proposed Copyright Act I would have a very difficult time getting established. I cannot afford to register my paintings. Selling them on the internet, or even posting them on the internet, would be just giving them away since I would have no *reasonable* recourse for anyone who wanted to just download and use them. With the printers available now, anyone can print copies to sell as their own.

My second concern is for the average non-artist person. Under the new Copyright Act it would be possible for a business to mine social media sites (FaceBook, Twitter, etc) and take any picture them liked. They could then alter it – as minor as changing the color of the shirt, or cropping it – and use it in any manner they wanted. They could take my picture, or your daughter's picture and use it in an ad or to illustrate something contrary to your fundamental beliefs.

I realize that in this day of the internet the existing Copyright Laws about orphan works are being stretched to the limit and something needs to be changed to fix this. However, the change that needs to take place is to make it *easier* for the artists to protect their creations and therefore their livelihood, not to turn over all of their creations to anyone who wants to exploit them. I believe that it is imperative that no "artist group" be allowed to benefit financially from the creation or use of copyright registries.

Thank you for reading my letter.

Gloria Summers