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July 23, 2015

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

RE: Notice of Inquiry, Copyright Office, Library of Congress
Copyright Protection for Certain Visual Works (80fr23054)

Dear Ms. Pallante and the Copyright Office Staff,

I am an Independent creator of visual artworks; technically I may be considered a hobbyist. I work 40+ hours a week as a Graphic Designer, and on the side, I am trying to advance my freelance illustration career.

I have an interest in any changes to Copyright Law as it may adversely affect my dreams and future employment goals.

A key component to growing my brand as an artist is sharing art works for free, almost daily, to an audience across multiple Internet platforms. It is extremely important to me to maintain ownership of these works, without having to register 365+ images/year.

I fear there are many opportunities for others, not focused on creating new works, to monetize my images unless I defer time from creating to registering works. The lack of a clear solution for group-registration is additionally troubling.

Aside from possible fraudulent monetization, lack of attribution is a major concern. Someone with access to my “orphaned” work may become more associated with my imagery than I am, and thus my patiently cultivated brand could suffer.

We live in a country that has little-to-no respect for artworks from a monetary standpoint. People will spend money for cars, TVs, other consumer goods, yet they will illegally download music and search high and low for the cheapest possible visual art, from stock houses, or from a bright eyed, ignorant young person, fresh out of College.

Please consider that artists already face numerous challenges to success, and altering the Copyright Law may serve to weaken our ability to thrive even further. Artist’s works are already being stolen and re-appropriated with no benefit to the artist. Please do not make this theft easier. Artists, as independent enterprises, do not have the resources to compete with entire workforces for control of their own work.

Thank you for your time and consideration in reaching out for the perspective of those who create visual assets. I hope that all incentives are considered in this matter, not just those who speak louder, with larger pockets.

Sincerely,

Joshua Eli Gilley