July 15, 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 (Docket No. 2015-01)

Dear Ms. Pallante and the Copyright Office Staff:

My name is Rebecca Sibinga. I am a student, studying fine arts in the pursuit of obtaining a degree in architecture. I have been producing art since childhood, some of saleable quality, most not. I would like to address some of the problems I see with the proposed changes to the laws covering copyright.

I am deeply concerned by the proposal to allow theft of personal property through very insubstantial changes, without any information about the original work or any thought as to the payment of the original artist for the rights to alter and use their work. I urge you to maintain current Copyright law, and perhaps consider changes that will help protect the rights of the original artist, rather than the rights of those who seek to use their artwork without paying for the right to do so.

Significant challenges in monetizing and displaying artwork digitally:

One of the challenges that I see often faced is the theft or unaccredited display of digital artwork. These works belong to their creators under current law, even when not licensed, when they have not sold the rights. Many artists will display/distribute their art online for various purposes—to promote their skills for commissions, or for personal pleasure, or other reasons. These artists face the following problem: other people will save the image, digitally alter the image to exclude the artist's signature or remove a caption with that information, and repost the image implying that they (the second party) have produced it or sans any information at all. These stolen images are then distributed without permission from the artist, and often without the artist's knowledge. This distribution is problematic and unethical because it does not credit the artist, thereby removing the ability of viewers to find the artist, and limits the ability of the artist to sell their work.

To change the copyright laws to make it legal to take these displayed artworks when they lack a license is to starve out the original artist, forcing them out of the spaces they have created to sell and distribute their work. To force artists to license every scrap of work they do at personal cost, is to limit creativity and artistic output so severely that young or unknown artists will be unable to display their wares.

Significant challenges or frustrations for those who wish to make legal use of digital artworks:

One of the frustrations I feel most often when looking at art on the internet is this: when I find a piece that I like, many times the information that would allow me to see more works by the artist has

been removed, and the image has been removed to a different online location without the artist's knowledge. If I were to desire to buy art from this artist, I would then be unable to do so. However, I would far prefer to have to hunt up the artist's information than to never see art online because artists cannot afford to post it without legally losing rights to it.

Thank you very much,

Rebecca Sibinga