Marilyn Biles
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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

Dear Ms. Pallante and the Copyright Staff,

I'm writing to stress that for me, and for artists like me, copyright law is not an abstract legal issue. Our copyrights are our assets. Licensing them is how we make our livings. Licensing my rights is how I derive my business income and my copyrights are my economic assets. Copyright is also of the utmost importance to me for creative control of my work to protect its accuracy, integrity and authenticity. The 1976 Copyright Act has enabled me to sustain a professional career. However, I have experienced a substantial and growing loss of rights. I am also facing threats to the integrity and preservation of my lifetime body of work, which is my business inventory and also my legacy. My concerns and experiences are shared by my colleagues and by fellow visual artists throughout this country.

1. What are the most significant challenges related to monetizing and/or licensing photographs, graphic artworks, and/or illustrations?

Exposure to the right market and maintaining creative control of my work in the public arena. It is a fine line because as artists we need to get exposure and have our artwork seen in order to get our names out there and gain clientele. However, in putting our artwork out for the public to see you are having to risk an unknown party stealing your images for their monetary gain.

2. What are the most significant enforcement challenges for photographers, graphic artists, and/or illustrators?

Stealing images off of the internet. There is no concrete way to keep people from taking images and using them on their website without compensating the artist.

3. What are the most significant registration challenges for photographers, graphic artists, and/or illustrators?

There is no image to match the title when the registration paperwork is returned.

4. What are the most significant challenges or frustrations for those who wish to make legal use of photographs, graphic art works, and/or illustrations?

Legal documentation of permission given from the artist. You don't really know who is taking your work or using it for whatever purpose. Work cannot be used without the artists signed agreement to use all or part of the work.

5. What other issues or challenges should the Office be aware of regarding photographs, graphic artworks, and/or illustrations under the Copyright Act?

a) Our artwork is of value to us because it is our main professional asset and how we make income within our business.
b) The collection of resale royalties needs to be practical so that it can be properly implemented by artists. The lack of enforcement of the regulations is limiting the art industry to its full potential and hindering artist in their ability to make this a feasible way to earn a living.

Best Regards,

Marilyn Biles- Artist