July 21, 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,

I am writing to ask that you create policy to protect artists and their exclusive rights. Copyright is 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 other artists throughout this country.

The digitization of the world's creative works, along with the dramatically rising arc of unauthorized secondary licensing, is increasingly harming visual authors. For over 25 years a passive U.S. Copyright Office has not implemented policy or recommended legislation to restore balance to the author/publisher relationship. Additionally, there are other overdue actions the Copyright Office can implement to restore equity to the American artist.

Copyright supports a right that establishes a relationship between the creation and dissemination of my artistic works. It is not reasonable, nor feasible, for independent creators to find justice against violators, especially if said violators are giant corporations. We cannot sustain the legal battle. I have found my work isolated from its published website and reused by others who have secured no authorization from me to use my work. I am not concerned with fair use of my work, or the use of my work on blogs that celebrate or comment on art, but, I heartily object to the widespread use of my work to promote their own agendas.

It is my sincere hope that this Copyright Office will take care to firstly cause no harm to visual artists. Secondly, that the Copyright Office will proactively work with visual artists to craft policy to protect visual authors and their exclusive rights, and support a sustainable environment for professional authorship.

Thank you for issuing the first Notice of Inquiry dedicated to examining copyright and visual artists.
Respectfully submitted,
Katherine Swift
Cow Art and More