Theresa Taylor Bayer
Self Employed Artist
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July 20, 2015

Maria Pallante
Register of Copyrights
US 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

Dear Ms. Pallante and Copyright Office Staff:

I wrote to you on July 19, 2015 answering your five questions re. artists and copyright legislation. Again, I wish to convey to you and your staff my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to give you feedback re. the proposed new copyright legislation. I have more to say. Here is what I predict what will happen if Orphan Works 2 is passed into law:

1. If every single sketch, reference, contract, etc.,must be included with the image in order to register the artwork for copyright, artists will be forced to spend a much larger portion of their time in registering copyrights, thus reducing their studio work time and their profits. Many artists already have huge demands made on their time such as it is, and are already struggling to find the time to make art.

2. If copyright registration is to be privatized, there is no telling what kind of fees will be charged, or how the copyright is to be enforced, or if any of this could take place in a uniform manner. It could become very expensive in addition to being time consuming.

3. The above two factors will serve to discourage artists from registering their works for copyright, thus opening them up to massive intellectual property theft. Artists will be left between a rock and a hard place: either spend significant extra time and money registering their copyrights, or risk theft of their images. I am betting they will mostly choose the latter, simply because they will already be too overworked and overwhelmed to want to go through all the extra time/expense registering their copyrights.

4. As self employed individuals, artists already spend a lot of time, effort, and money paying federal, state, and local taxes for our businesses. The expense and paperwork of the proposed copyright registration poses an added burden that many other businesses would not have to face.

5. If this legislation passes there will be artists who won't be able to make a living any more, and they will be applying to an already overcrowded job market, when instead, they could have provided their own jobs by being self employed.

6. It is supremely ironic that under the proposed new copyright legislation, an artwork with an artist's signature plainly visible on it could be declared "orphaned" when that same signature would be legally binding on a check or an official document at all levels of government.

Once again, thank you for letting our voices be heard. Artists of all kinds feel very passionate about this issue. With the exception of removing a signature or a watermark from an artwork being made illegal, please keep copyright of artwork the way it is! Please let America continue being the country that fosters and nurtures creativity, invention, and innovation.

Respectfully,

Theresa Taylor Bayer