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JULY 17, 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)

Maria Pallante,

I am an award winning artist with my work in museum permanent collections, galleries, film, and on home décor and accessories. I am writing to ask that you create policy to protect visual artists and their exclusive rights, and support a sustainable environment for professional authorship.

I sell my work online via social media through numerous websites. The biggest challenge to monetizing/licensing my work is to keep control of where it appears and who uses it, and to keep my copyright notice and contact information associated with the work. My electronic image files which are posted online have metadata that is often erased by websites or viewers . I require that my name and copyright information be included with the image by those who ask my permission and some will do so, but often the image is appropriated by someone else and that information is

cropped off. I always sign my work within the image area, I watermark ©Robin Maria Pedrero but there are multiple companies with software and tutorials instructing users how to erase watermarks. There is nothing I can do to prevent my work from being 'orphaned'.

If the Copyright Office is sincere about protecting rights of creators, it should make it illegal to remove a watermark, illegal to remove metadata, illegal to remove copyright information, and also illegal to mass digitize any works not in the public domain without written permission from the creator, all with stiff financial penalties. The Copyright office should make all of its registered images searchable by image, not just by textual data. If Google and Bing can do it, so can the Copyright Office. In addition, the suggestion of a text-based 'Notice of Use' of a work assumed to be 'orphaned' would be useless. Protection for creators is to eliminate the concept of orphan works altogether. No work is an orphan, it all has been created by someone, even if a 'potential user' doesn't know who it is.

Please protect my livelihood and my career.

Warm regards,

Robin Maria Pedrero