RE: Notice of Inquiry, Copyright Office, Library of Congress
Copyright Protection for Certain Visual Works (Docket No. 2015-01)

Dear Ms. Pallante & U.S. Copyright Office Staff:

I am a hobbyist artist. Most of my work is calligraphic art/illumination, with a heavy focus on illustration. My work often takes months to create because of the detail involved, so I would be a starving artist if that were my main profession. However, I can see art as being my retirement career and therefore do look at each piece I create as part of a body of work that I may someday choose to make into prints and sell.

One of my main concerns is the ease with which identity of a piece of visual art can be lost. I entered a piece of work in the state fair last year which had taken me 6 months of effort to create. Many people photographed it (and probably didn't photograph my name card). At this point, although I consider the piece to be the most important piece in my portfolio, I am aware that the photos of my work can be used by anyone without crediting me. Online programs like Pinterest are another issue, since the original source of information is often lost in the process of pinning. Copyright upon creation assures me that my work is still mine.

Registering copyright is perhaps even more challenging for a hobbyist artist than a professional. Since we have less work accumulated in a year and are not presently deriving financial gain from it, the costs in time and money associated with officially registering a copyright pose a challenge. We have many demands on our time, and time spent registering a copyright is time that cannot be spent creating art. However, our art remains part of our identity, and to have another claim credit for it or use it without permission feels like a subtle form of identity theft.

Thank you for your concern,

Kathleen M Rollick