July 19, 2015

Maria Pallante
Register of Copyrights
U.S. Copyright Office
101 Independence 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)

Dear Ms. Pallante and the Copyright Office Staff,

Thank you for allowing artists to comment on the issues they face in the marketplace. I am a digital arts student currently studying at Golden West College. While I lack experience in the marketing field to focus on my studies to be an illustrator, I will do my best to reply to your questions.

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

   Sometimes the internet becomes a huge image bank for anyone to use for whatever means they like. When an image becomes viral enough, it is difficult to reclaim your ownership of it. Going to a licenser can muddle up the situation as well, when they try to get more of the profit than the creator. When the creator is having a struggle to earn a living, getting less of the funds can lead to endangering their lives.

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

   Honestly the how wide spread the internet is a double edged sword. While putting your art out there can help boost your cause, at the same time, other people are easily able to snatch the work up and claim it as their own or use it for whatever they please. While I normally do not mind nonprofit uses, especially those places that celebrate the arts, using the art to slander or for profiting reasons is where people like me draw the line.

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

   I believe the pricing and availability is a challenge here. There are not many widely known places where one can register their images in a manner that the government can

recognize. As a beginner to the artist's world, I found the task difficult to find and understand.

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?**

   Getting permission from those who originally made the image can be difficult in the sea of information known as the internet. Many people can claim ownership or even forget who made the art in the first place. Because of the difficulty of finding the original owner, people often end up skipping this step which causes trouble for both ends. The person who used the image has to pay a fee for using the image while the other has to cover up any possible misuse of their imagery. With how the internet works, however, it is difficult to truly rid the cyber world of what has happened.

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

   While some artists want to share their art to the world for free, there are many who use graphics to gain money for living reasons. Forcing artists to go to a licenser can put them at risk for losing their livelihood as the higher ups tend to attempt to rip off the creators and could even try to work them to ground for not much cash. With little funds, one cannot have a sustainable living in our country. But for many, the arts is a reasonable way to earn a living and that should remain like that. Forcing the unlicensed arts to be orphaned and free to any use will cause financial and even judicial issues too.

Please take this letter and others into note when looking at the Copyright Laws act.

Thank you for listening to this developing artist.

Christine Nguyen, Certified Adobe Photoshop User and Future Children Book Illustrator