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:

Hello, My name is Robert Simpson and I am an artist studying Digital Art and Animation at DigiPen Institute of Technology.

I have a few concerns about current copyright laws and the infringement of said laws that I find pressing because of its wide reaching effects on the online art community, professional and unprofessional alike.

First, I have seen on many occasions companies such as “Hot Topic” blatantly take designs from artists on the internet to create shirts. The Artists are powerless to do anything to stop this infringement and I feel that there should be checks and balances to make sure that companies are using designs and products that are obtained through legal means and fair compensation. Another possible solution is creating a transparent process where artists can report or file claims of copyright infringement with support of the U.S government.

These are livelihoods that are threatened and we has citizens deserve the right to protection of our livelihoods.

In regards to the Orphan Works and Mass Digitization Report, I am in extreme opposition to the proposed change that requires artists to pay a fee to register every design they want to protect. Speaking as a student; my peers and I are already in a constant state of economic strife, the average overall cost of attendance to an Art or technical school like DigiPen, is approx. $50,000 a year. The thought of making those hard working and financial unstable students pay to guarantee that their work is not infringed upon sickens me. Protecting and supporting artists both professional and unprofessional should be the top priority of this legislation and I believe the current proposed legislation only exploits us.

Thank you for your time; I hope my letter will help create a bill that is founded in the belief that our right to life liberty and the pursuit of happiness and the protection of said right.

Sincerely,

Robert Simpson