Dear Copyright Office,

I'm writing in response to the fact that Congress is drafting a new US Copyright Act. I fear it would be very detrimental to the artist community. I am a graphic designer graduating from college in a matter of days. I am looking for a job and would also like to freelance as well. I want to do what I can to ensure that I can still earn a living doing what I enjoy, without fearing that my work will be misused.

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

   The general public doesn't seem to understand very well the value of creative works such as photography, graphic design, and illustration. This can be seen in the music industry. Most people have few qualms over downloading "free" music. They enjoy it but they don't think about how the people who wrote/performed the music are going to make ends meet. Likewise in the visual arts, people enjoy the results but don't necessarily consider that being an artist is a serious vocation, or that artists are trying to make a living. People wouldn't expect to get other products or services for cheap or free, so why are the arts an exception?

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

It may take a while for an artist to even find out that their work is being infringed. So much damage can be done before the artist even finds out. And it also costs a lot to hire a lawyer in the event of a lawsuit.

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

Currently, the fee for copyrighting a creative work is around $50. If artists were required to copyright literally everything they've ever produced (past, present and future works, everything from finished work to sketches), that's a ridiculous amount of time and money to spend in the mere hope that their work is protected. Most artists simply cannot afford that.

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?

It's sometimes hard to gain access to artwork because artists are so on the defensive, wary that someone will infringe on their work. It's also difficult because it's more expensive than typically expected, and rightfully so. With art, you're not just buying the art. You're buying the service/rights which are almost worth more than the art itself.

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

In short, I believe the Copyright Act would discourage current and future artists from making a living through their art. Those in favor of the Copyright Act think they're making art more available for the public. But if there's no real way for an artist to protect or have control over their artwork, then it really stifles the art of the future. It also doesn't give the respect that artists deserve. No one would dare ask Microsoft or Apple or any other major company out there to give away the rights to their products/brand. So why would anyone ask artists to do the same thing?

I hope the Copyright Office and congress will consider the needs and value of American artists and anyone who produces anything and publishes it online and let them have the protection they deserve under the Constitution (creative works have protection whether they're registered or not).

Sincerely, Sarah Jarvis