July 19, 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)

Dear Ms. Pallante and the Copyright Office Staff,

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my troubles regarding the problems that the visual arts face in the marketplace. I am writing you today because I am deeply concerned by the legislation that is being presented regarding orphan works. I am a Freelance Illustrator who has been in the business of creating images and licensing my rights to those images for years. Copyright is the basis of my income and how I support my business. It is the only way I have to protect my work, and the only way to stay in the business of Art licensing.

The biggest challenge to licensing my work is to keep control of where it ends up, and who uses it, as my copyright notice and contact information associated with the art can sometimes not be attached. My copyright information appears on my website as well at my agents where my artwork is store, but when my image appears someplace else on line, or when my signature is cropped off my work, or otherwise my information is no longer associated with my art. At that point there is really nothing that can be done to stop my work from being what I understand is called -orphaned. The thought that my work that I spend hours upon hours creating can not be associated with met is tough to enough to swallow. But to consider it orphaned and then can be used by any other party who can call it their own with out penalty is quite simply unjust, and in truth is called stealing.

I would like to believe that the Copyright office would like to work in the best interest of Artists. What needs to be done to truly protect the rights of Artists is to make it illegal to remove a watermark, and copyright information from any piece of work, and make it also illegal to digitize any works not in the public domain without the expressed written consent from the Artist.The Copyright office should make all of its registered images searchable by image, not just by textual data. Artists works are visual. To describe an artists work in words can not give the artwork the individual description it needs to allow it to stand on it's own.

I have registered a lot of work with the US Copyright Office over the years. It is my understanding according to

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this new legislation that there will be a clearing house for image searches, and that I will have to resubmit my work to a different registry with additional cost. The time and expense to do this would be catastrophic to my business. How could this possibly be in the interest of Artists?

I am very worried about my future as an artist with the way this new legislation is written right now. I should have complete rights to my work having a say in how it's used or not used should also be my complete right. If the legislation that is written right now passes it will put many, if not most, Illustrators and art licensors out of business.
Please do something to protect us.

Thanks you,
Lisa Conlin

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