July 22, 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)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the affects of copyright law on my career as a visual artist.

My name is Beth Colletti. I'm an emerging mixed media artist, surface designer and illustrator in the process of educating myself not only about running a business as an entrepreneur and freelance artist, but also about the unique challenges that come with a career in the visual arts. I have particular concern for the problems visual artists face in the digital age we live in with regard to the protection of their work.

Changes to current copyright laws would put the power in the hands of big businesses and internet agencies, hurting the income stream of independent artists as they provide for themselves and their families. Small businesses and entrepreneurs will be the ones who suffer if organizations are allowed to digitize and resell our work without knowledge or fair compensation for every resale.

Furthermore to be forced to register every piece of art - from sketches or photographs of my work, to the original itself - in order to protect myself will create a huge expense, impeding my ability to produce any real profit. As someone who is just breaking into a career in the visual arts, I feel like I'm battling against Goliath, with little hope of a fair fight. Starting a small business can take years to establish, and the proposals under consideration would cripple artists before they have a fair chance at making a living.

Everything I create should be part of my business inventory and as the creator, I should have the right to determine how and by whom my work is used. Anyone taking digital imagery of my work and using it for their own purposes without my permission and fair compensation is essentially stealing.

Thank you for considering these points. I ask that you recommend visual art be excluded from any orphan works provisions Congress writes into the new copyright act.

Sincerely,

Beth Colletti
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