July 20, 2015

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)

To Whom it May Concern:

I am currently an illustration student at California College of the Arts and this coming semester marks the beginning of my senior year. I am new to working within the creative industry and even though I am a student still, I am proud to say that I have been a working illustrator for two years now. To me and to my livelihood copyright laws are not an abstract legal issue, but a matter of the literal foundation on which my business and income rests. Copyright laws are what keep food on my table as an illustrator. These proposed reforms will make earning a living while working in the creative industry nearly impossible and will be taking the food out of already starving artist's mouths. For a working artist, copyrights are our a main source of our income. To let this initiative pass would be disastrous to so many people who are currently working in the creative industry, and even more so for the ones who are trying to break in.To infringe my work, or anyone's work is no different than stealing our hard earned money, especially when the value of work only increases as time passes. As a freelance illustrator, it is essential for me to maintain these revenue streams in order to be able to make a living. The potential resale and resale of my past images is part of doing business as an illustrator. My collection of work is a valuable resource that produces income for me, it is essentially like having stock at a grocery store; I can sell an item (image) once, and then have it in stock for whomever may need it again. To replace our current copyright laws with a system that would benefit internet companies (And not really anyone else) would endanger my personal well being and so many other working creative's abilities to earn an honest living. There are companies and individuals who have already begun digitizing my work without financial compensation or my permission. Why would the government favor big name corporations like this instead of of us who actually create new work to feed our families? This act, when distilled is completely unconstitutional and violates American first amendment rights; congress cannot make a law that is abridging freedom of speech and would restrict people working in the creative industry to be very cautions about their expression. Artists who are working freelance as independent contractors are finding it hard enough today to earn a (perhaps initially meager but)decent living without dealing with depletion of their income and future earnings as coined in these insane and corrupt proposals by those who

have without any give, low balled and devalued intellectual as well as creative property. This proposed law to override the existing copyright laws should be ousted as the trite, contrived, and unconstitutional, backhanded indignity that it is. I thank you for taking the time to read my letter and I beg you to recommend that visual art be excluded from any orphan works provisions Congress writes into the new copyright act.

Sincerely,

Ana Valdez
Career Freelance Illustrator