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United States Copyright Office
RE: Copyright Protection for Certain Visual Works

To Whom It May Concern,

As an artist, I feel our current system of copyrights since 1976 where our work is copyrighted when it is created is the way it should stand. Any changes to this could mean the loss of our ownership to our creation and means of income. It is hard enough for me to register a series of works such as one of my comic books with the copyright office, but the prices are fair. Going to a independent curator of copyrighted works would be time consuming and expensive. Many of our works developing our creations we do on our own time without getting paid. The idea I would have to pay for every sketch and design used in a creation, at a potentially large price, and not getting my full rate for my work is outrageous. What if ,an artist is poor or is in a cash-flow weak month/season where they can't afford the registration fees for all the artwork? That's practically allowing legal theft of someone's art because they are a "poor artist" that can't pay to register their work. It is basically saying if you are not a rich artist/company you have no rights to your work, even if you weren't doing it work for hire.

Secondary and Tertiary markets are sometimes the most profitable after initial use in publication or elsewhere. My work(as well as others) can be reused for Calendars, Postcards, Coffee Mugs, Advertisements, as well as any new form that technology will enable and monetize. These reuses, are what we as the creator may depend on as we get older and cannot work anymore. Having complete control and ownership from creation of our artwork is potentially a life or death for us. Many of us have spent years developing our craft , and that goes into every piece we create. Creating is like giving birth, and seeing your "child" stolen from you is heartbreaking.

In these uncertain economic times where artists are used as commodities in commercial art careers, there isn't a "safety net' for us. We many times we live month to month, cannot afford insurance, and know our next job can be our last. We expect to see more of our work sent overseas, or see "contests" where company picks the "winning" art. Why pay for an artist to develop a logo/design or other work, when you can get thousands to do it for free, or use stock art. Our copyright we own is our "Safety Net". It's the only thing we can count on if we lose our work ,or something happens to us where we can't. Enacting this copyright would be catastrophic and would make things already challenging for us artists to be insurmountable.

Regards

Brandon T Perlow