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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)

To Whom it May Concern:
My name is Christine Myhska. I am a visual artist and an art educator, working in multiple genres; Illustration, Fine Art and Murals for over 25 years. I have both commercial and private clients. My illustrations have been published in magazines, appeared on package designs, institutional illustration, clothing images, private and public commissions, etc. have been working since 1988 in creating and array of visual art and I am writing to address the problems visual artists face in the new digital environment.I teach a business if Art class to art students and have been keeping them informed on the "future" of Copyright. I have also told them they must speak up for themselves and for their art/illustration and design work. I have also told them that their future livelihoods, dependent of being able to manage the use of their own artworks is in **jeopardy!**

1. ***What are the most significant challenges related to monetizing and/or licensing photographs, graphic artworks, and/or illustrations?***
As a freelance visual artist and illustrator, I need to maintain revenue streams in order to make a
living for my family. My collection of work is a valuable resource that produces income for me. Any attempt to replace our existing copyright laws
with a system that would benefit internet companies would endanger my ability to make a living.
Why would the government favor corporations like this instead of those of us who actually create new work?

2. ***What are the most significant enforcement challenges for photographers,***

graphic artists, and/or illustrators?
The very proposals the Copyright Office has made to Congress concern me. It is essentially a revised Orphan Works (OW) bill, but would be even worse. Orphan Works bills have been resoundingly opposed by artists since they first appeared a decade ago. A copyright law built on the foundation of orphan works law would allow internet companies to syphon off revenue from artists with the hopes of creating an even better revenue stream for themselves. There can be no bigger challenge for those of us who make our living creating new works than to have to compete with giant corporations that can get artwork free from artists and compete with us for our own markets.

3. ***What are the most significant registration challenges for photographers, graphic artists, and/or illustrators?***
The proposal to reintroduce registration would become another financial burden for artists. No matter how little registries might charge in the beginning, like banks, they would soon begin to introduce charges and fees that would grow as they gain a greater and greater competitive advantage over freelance artists such as myself. Anyone who says this won't happen is not living in the real world. In the end, if the government succeeds in passing this legislation, the end result will be that artists like myself will find ourselves paying through the nose to maintain our images in somebody else's for profit registries. As for the images we can't afford to register, or those we can't find the time to register, or those we can't find decades old metadata to register will all fall into noncompliance and a lifetime of images created at great expense and effort will be free to be exploited by others.
This would be a career ending scenario that would see many, many artists giving up
on their dreams, livelihoods and simple stop creating art! How sad for the world to
loose out on artists`s precious gifts. If this legislation passes and artists are driven out
of their careers, in time, all art will become stale, repetitive and worthless because all
creativity and expression and uniqueness has died!

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?***
The biggest challenge of all would be , “will I be able to continue making a living as a visual artist?”
My frustration is that all my hard work is being taken from me for others to profit from while living me
having to choose to continue on as an artists. No one likes to be taken advantage of or simply,
having their livelihood stolen from them.

5. ***What other issues or challenges should the Office be aware of regarding photographs, graphic artworks, and/or illustrations under the Copyright Act?***
The kind of system the Copyright Office has proposed to Congress seems all too

familiar to me. The proposals the Copyright Office has made to Congress are unjust, hurtful and demeaning to artists and their art. it is imperative that no artists group that
supports this legislation be allowed to receive any financial benefit from the creation of copyright registries or notice of use registries. These artists organizations have failed artists and should not be allowed to use this legislation to profit even further off the artists they were created to help.
Thank you for reading my letter and **I ask you to recommend that visual art be excluded from any orphan works provisions Congress writes into the new copyright act.**

6. What are the most significant challenges artists would face if these new copyright proposals become law?
Where we we find the time to create art, which feeds our families, and find the time to register every step of our creative process,
pay to register all our art and still make a profit? We as artists will be forced to waste precious time doing mountains of paperwork so
others can simply take our work, not pay us, make a profit for themselves. Who want to live like this?

Thank you,
Christine Myshka