July 20, 2015

Maria Pallante
Register of Copyrights
U.S. Copyright Office
101 Independence Ave. S.E.
Washington, DC 20559-6000

R.E. Notice of Inquiry, Copyright Office, Library of Congress

To whom it may concern,

I am taking the opportunity graciously presented to share my stance in my opposition to the possible replacement of current copyright laws that are being discussed by the 23rd of July 2015.

I introduce myself as an enrolled student and have both grown into visual art and the digital landscape hoping to push myself into Cyber Forensics, to unite the two with my interest in law. My current work is designing a Hennepin County patch for uniforms and have been constantly updating my own art onto a digital site for both critique and to grow a following of people interested in my portfolio, commissioning me or purchasing my artwork.

As a student growing in the visual arts field I believe the art industry could not be stronger than under our current copyright laws. Our current laws that protect our work from its creation give artists security to both create and share more. Many of my own skills and interests were discovered because of the growing number of online artists that both teach and commune in the online artist community. I myself might perhaps make thousands of different ideas, mistakes, successful sketches and put my work online for my own interests. Art in American culture could not be more powerful but as soon as the new proposed laws are put into place that image could change. Having to register any drawing you wanted to share for a critique from your peers or visitors will not urge people to share artwork freely because it will become expensive for those with a low income such as those beginning in the art field especially. The proposed copyright law is at the expense of the artist and to the benefit of large scale companies who will no longer need to accredit creators because they found an “orphan work,” taking somebodys artwork and putting a “free” sign on it. I will have to pay to create artwork that will have to become more expensive to the consumer because I had to register the work in the first place. Registration will likely become far more expensive because it will become critical for the artist to even make a profit off of their work so that it will not be stolen. As a young student I find the proposed copyright law a devastating blow to both my education and the job fields concerning those in the creative field. As a young artist It is already difficult to get started and become recognized on such a large market but would surely be ruined for myself and a majority of aspiring students and creative mindsets if the new legislation were to be put in place.

Thank you for listening to my concern and belief that visual art should not be apart of any future “orphan works” acts or acts related to so. With much appreciation and sincerest gratitude,

Catherine Trombley
Robbinsdale, MN