July 17,2015
Register of Copyrights
U.S. Copyright Office
101 Independence Ave. S.E.
Washington, DC 20559-6000

Dear Ms, Pallante,

My name is Brittney Sherwood. I am a freelance illustrator, fresh out of Art College. I am writing due to my concern for future laws in copyright that may effect my ability to build my career.

1. What are the most significant challenges related to monetizing and/or licensing photographs, graphic artworks, and/or illustrations?

   The biggest challenge I face for monetizing is keeping people from stealing my work. I put up only low resolution images and ones with watermarks to obscure the image in my attempts to protect my work.

2. What are the most significant enforcement challenges for photographers, graphic artists, and/or illustrators?

   The main challenge I face to enforcing my rights is the ease in which people can steal and make profit off of my work. As of now the only recourse or punishment for someone who has stolen work is that they are 'reported' by self-policing websites. These websites will only remove them from the website. As the law currently stands, it favors only those who have the resources to find out who the stealing individuals are to prosecute them.

3. What are the most significant registration challenges for photographers, graphic artists, and/or illustrators?

   I create a large volume of work, it would be fairly unfeasible to register every single image in order to share every piece I make on a public portfolio. It would become too costly and time consuming to register them all.

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?

   It can be difficult to find the original owner of a piece. However I do not see that as reason enough to be allowed to use it anyway. The original artist is typically not the person that posted it, if their contact information is not listed. I do not see the fairness of the original artist loosing profits and rights, because a different individual posted their work without citing where they found it.

5. What other issues or challenges should the Office be aware of regarding photographs, graphic artworks, and/or illustrations under the Copyright Act?

The works that are already online cannot for sure be properly retracted by an artist in order for them to register each piece to protect themselves from financial loss. Artists who have created hundreds of pieces may not be able to finance registering each piece fast enough to protect themselves against potential theft if the orphaned works passes. New artists whom are not already established will not have the finances to protect their work if they have to register each piece. It will make it harder for them to establish themselves as they will not be able to quickly and effectively share their work publicly in order to build reputation. Some artists are not paid up front by freelance clients. A client may potentially abuse the orphaned works bill if its passed by tricking an artist to do work and registering it without the artists knowledge. This potential bill will cause more harm than good if passed.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my concerns,

Brittney Sherwood