July 20, 2015

To the Copyright Office,

To imply that artists should not have the exclusive right to their own work should be criminal. Just because people have enough trouble stealing others artwork now does not mean the government should be making it easier for them. As a young artist, a future such as the one proposed in this act leads me only to visions of never ending legal issues as I try to reclaim every piece of art I have done or will ever do.

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

   Often times, I will paint several pictures within a month. Usually, I only sell my art in person through commissions, but I know several artists who advertise their art online to advertise print sales. They will post a digital image of the art. If they do several of these in a month, or even a year, how much time will that take? Will they have to register even progress shots or thumbnails as well? As we all know, doing anything with the government involved can take months to process due to the sheer volume. How do you *think* this will affect people who rely on post multiple images a week for their income?

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

   Again, how do you *think* this will affect the people who *rely* on these images to feed themselves? What is the incentive for a consumer to buy a print from an artist if they can open it up in Paint, change some lines slightly, and then print it and sell it themselves? What about artists who have been making art for 30 years, and have created hundreds of illustrations, and now will have to go through this registration process for years or risk their livelihood being taken away?

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

See above! Registering these photos will most likely take months for artists who have been drawing their entire lives, and in those months any of their art can be taken from them when normally it would be paid for! A company that sees a drawing they like on someone's portfolio can happily save it and print it with no notification or payment to the original artist and make thousands in that time!

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?*
   Nothing! Those who wish to use other people's artwork have virtually nothing to lose, only things to gain. They can make a mild attempt (as in one Google search) to identify the original artist and BAM, it is orphaned! Fair game! The only loser here is the person who created the original image.

5. *What other issues or challenges should the Office be aware of regarding photographs, graphic artworks, and/or illustrations under the Copyright Act?*
   The Office should be aware that they are taking away people's livelihoods. With all this talk of lowering unemployment and creating stability in American lives, the fact that the government is openly working against the interests of the American people and working in turn for the interests of big business, while simultaneously taking away the Constitutional rights it has sworn to protect is despicable. No wonder this bill has failed to pass twice!

Please reconsider passing this bill. Theft should not be encouraged by the government, intellectual property should be protected.

Sincerely,

Cassidy Pearsall

Carnegie Mellon University Theatrical Design Student and Freelance Artist