July 19, 2015

Maria Pallante
Registeer of Copyrights
U.S. Copyright Office
101 Independecne 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 Connor Reynolds, but I go by the name Coco Reyne. I'm a college student studying sequential art, which is the making of comics, comic books, and graphic novels.

Looking up my name and work won't yield any results, because I have no recognized name, no credentials, nothing to back up my words. That's how it always begins for artists and students like me. We're nobodies. We have no authority, no presence, and that makes it easy to steal our artwork. We have to fight tooth and nail to build up even the smallest of presences, be it in the comics industry itself or with freelance work. Without a name, we have no recognition, and without recognition, we have no work. And without work, we don't get paid.

For most people, they have to build up some sort of online presence via webcomics. It's free, it's relatively fast, and no one has to hire you. Sure, you probably won't get paid for doing it but you're at least getting your name and artwork some exposure. But let's say someone is bumbling along on the Internet and decides to steal your artwork. The artwork you spent long, grueling hours, days, even, to get online for your meager fanbase to enjoy. All of that hard work and effort has gone out the window, and some jerk is either going to take the credit, or share it without giving credit to the artist. That artwork is *everything* to an unknown artist just trying to carve their way into the industry. It's our name, our identity. Having the copyright law gives us a legal way to fight back and keep what is rightfully ours. People like me aren't filled with power and accomplishments. We're poor nobodies. We need every single advantage we can possibly get, or we are going to fail.

We spend long, grueling hours pouring our heart and souls into what we do. This is who we *are*. What we create *belongs* to us. It *is* us. This isn't some abstract legal concept. This is our lives. Our careers. Scraping together a living in this industry is difficult enough as is. But without the ability to legally claim our artwork or defend it from those who would seek to pilfer it, it becomes impossible.

Without the legal rights to our work, we have nothing. No name. No job. No career. No life.

Best regards,
Connor Reynolds (Coco Reyne)