July 22, 2015

Maria Pallante
Register of Copyrights
U.S. Copyright Office
101 Independence 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)

Dear Ms. Pallante & U.S. Copyright Office Staff:

Hello, I am a crafter and artist in my spare time, recently I have begun to explore making my hobby into a profession, and leaving the career of 25+ years, that is not feeding my soul. As I read the information about the possible changes to copyright laws, I was disheartened - how can I afford to comply with the potential new laws to protect my creations and products, and be able to strike out on my own?

When you think about the changes in the economy because of technology, that has brought freedom for many to pursue their creative's dreams through sites like Etsy with 20 million products and over $895 million in sales, why would you want to decrease that kind of growth by changing the copyright laws?

It is important for artist and crafters to determine how and by whom our work is used, nor do any of us artist want our work monetized by others without our knowledge and consent.

The internet has made it even easier for creative work to be "stolen", but there needs to be teeth and consequences for stealing just as there is in the physical world. If I rob a 7-11, I can be arrested, and restitution can be required of me, why should not the same happen in the digital world?

Art does have further commercial value even when it has been published. This is like saying that once a product is made and leaves the factory others can use it without permission or purchasing it. How would anyone be able to make a living when time, creative energy, and resources have gone into the product, which is the same with art (such as a design, photo, painting, etc.)?

Please strongly consider keeping the protections currently in place and even strengthening them.

Thank you for your consideration!

Carolyn Bentley

Artist and Crafter