July 20, 2015

Maria Pallante
Register of Copyrights
U.S. Copyright Office
101Independence 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 Carl Buegel. I am a beginning freelanced artist who works within the art field. I have been gaining experience in this field since 2012, and I have been constantly doing what I can to be able to ensure monetary growth.

I am writing to address the problems visual artists face in the digital art field.

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

I must maintain revenue streams in order to assist my mother in keeping a roof over our head, food on the table and clothes on our backs. I take commissions in order to help me and my mother do
what we can to survive. Any attempt to replace the standard copywright laws with the new proposals to Congress will only allow more harm than good since giant internet companies will take away our only
main form of revenue and most artists are freelance artists as their main source of income. Ergo, if their revenue is taken by these big internet companies, then they recieve no profit from it, and artists such as I
will be unable to do what we can to survive. Some freelance artists have this as their career because they are just either traumatized by all of the corruption going on outside of their home or they are disable
and forced to stay within their homes, so they have this as a career and they need this career to meet proper living conditions.

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

The very proposals the Copyright Office has made to Congress concern me. It is essentially a revised Orphan Works (OW) bill, but would be even worse. Orphan Works bills have been resoundingly opposed by artists since they first appeared
a decade ago. A copyright law built on the foundation of orphan works law would allow internet companies to syphon off revenue from artists with the hopes of creating an even better revenue stream for themselves. There can be no bigger challenge for
those of us who make our living creating new works than to have to compete with giant corporations that can get artwork free from artists and compete with us for our own markets.

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

If this law were to pass, even though it may start off as small, companies will become more greedier over the course of time, and will either slowly increase the registration fees or they will add more regulations and charge for each one they add.
It will leave us struggling too pay off those for each piece we work so hard to create, only for some company with big bucks to come and alter it in a few minutes and then claim it as their own should we fail to finish in time.
It's only going to make things worse for our fellow artists in that if this law were to pass and people are unable to afford

it, they could simply take everything down and leave these corporations to have to find another method to make more. We deserve to post our artwork or make our works without this law. We already have to deal with art thieves that try to plagiarize our work. It will be more of a burden if we have to deal with them and big internet companies as well.

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?

The only time I were to make legal use of other's photographs, graphic art works, and/or illustrations is for reference, and reference only.

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

Other issues the Office should be aware of are groups that support this legislation. They support artists losing their primary form of meeting living conditions and should never, under any circumstances, be given any of the revenue.

Thank you for taking the time to look over my request to exclude visual arts from any orphan works provisions Congress writes into the new Copyright Act and I ask that you please consider it. Not just for my sake, but for every other artists out there within the United States that pursue this
field.

Thanks,

Carl Buegel