July 20, 2015

U.S. Copyright Office
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COPYRIGHT PROTECTION FOR CERTAIN VISUAL WORKS (Docket No. 2015-01)

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is B. Olivia Sy. I am a young and growing graphic designer based in the Los Angeles area, currently a design student in California University State, Long Beach. I work for the Associate Students corporation at my university creating and art directing event and organizational posters as well as branding for different campus groups. Alongside the work of my co-workers, many of the events that happen on my campus do not reach success without ad campaigns, social media outreach, and overall art to gain mass appeal among students that almost forget what it is like to enjoy a college experience by simply walking too fast.

I also freelance as a designer, doing mainly probono work as well as single pieces of graphic design work I will sell from time to time to various clients. Although I am young and still starting, I know that I have my goals set to become bigger than I am now, and to be an ultimate success as an artist. I have overcome many obstacles to get to where I am now, and I know that I am in a privileged position that many people have supported my unique decision to go into the art field when I had several career possibilities I could have chosen, one even in majoring in political sciences.

I chose the road less taken and that has changed the way I think, the way I act, the things I value. And a huge part of those values are always going to be political based on who I am and how I have grown up. As a working-class Asian-American woman with immigrant parents, I have been challenged time and time again to make great work and earn my own living; to achieve my version of the American Dream. Simply, wanting to live my life to beautify the world with my work is something I aspire to. Many people have wanted that very same, simple dream which has made them change the way the world sees art, how humanity values it. And this value in art needs to continue in the right way for all artists.

This letter is written in regards to the proposed law that would replace existing copyright law, designed to supply the general public with access to other people's copyrighted work with the clear intention of making it legally possible to use work without artists being paid a single dime. Disguised as "reform," the intention is clear and unfair to many disadvantaged and new artists, including myself.

Allowing internet databases to force artists to "register" artwork, or otherwise deem them as orphans or "derivative works" is highly problematic. Many visual artists have their hearts on their sleeve in order to find work, to earn pay, to sacrifice meals for the sake of

exposure, and continue to struggle to pave their way in both the art world and the tough society that demands so much at the lowest of costs. For corporate interests to gather our intellectual property and claim it for public usage to avoid contracts between artist and business is a gross and ridiculous absurdity to save a few dollars within the pool of millions they hold. The infringement of our property is basically robbing us of our worth, our livelihood, our accomplishments, and our creativity. Our work is worth what it is paid in, and artists are living off the scraps of success when we sell it for lower than most minimum wages for the time put into our work. Publicizing work also does not devalue the work, and if anything, brings more value with attaining public interest, including gaining the interests of these giant corporate preparing the steal of another buck form the smaller man. To simply even make the excuse of the act of searching for the artist to credit a work "difficult" is an extremely lazy and poor approach to support this proposed law.

Our right stated in Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution to have the exclusive right over his/her/their own property is being voided with this proposed law. Ultimately, there will be both a heavily figurative and literal starvation of artists and creativity if this law passes. This kind of creative brain drain among artists not only will lead to further discouragement for many to pursue the arts, but also damage the many present lives depending on art sales, commissions, and curations to simply live.

This proposed law to replace the existing copyright law needs to be dismissed as the dishonest, unconstitutional, and incredibly unfair affront that it is. Artists deserve their rights over their work, and the right to live creating something beautiful for the world. I deserve that right. Please recommend the exclusion of any visual art from any orphan provisions Congress writes into the new copyright act.

Thank you for reading,

B. Olivia Sy