Andrea Valdez

On the Web:
AndreaValdez.prosite.com
AndreaLikesToDraw.tumblr.com

July 23, 2015

Maria A. 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 and respected officials,

I am writing in regards to the most recently proposed reform to U.S. copyright law, and how such a bill would negatively impact me as an artist and recent college graduate.

I have completed two bachelors, one in traditional art and the other in graphic design. In doing so, many financial recourses are exhausted, and the job market is so poor that I am still a dependent even while working two jobs. The internet has been my prime and affordable source for self promotion, not to mention the most common way employers may see my portfolio.

What I have described is the situation for not just me, but also those I know, and thousands of others in this country who have come to depend on the internet for a multiple of reasons. However, it is my understanding that this law would remove all my creative ownership unless I entrust an unknown registrar with my life's work on top of associated fees. Though I am a relatively unknown artist, it is still the stripping of countless hours of work given to someone else and it is not right. Even if I removed all my uploaded content from the internet, and only relied on privately sent digital portfolios to employers, I still need the ability to call my ideas ***mine*** so that companies have incentive to hire me and not just take my portfolio as theirs. If I stopped using the internet altogether and relied on a physical portfolio, chances of getting hired for what I paid to learn would be slim if not none. An insecure job market and the call for education reform are problems giant enough without the addition of this bill. There is ***no*** benefit for this country in it.

This law also comes at a time of many well known breeches of computer networks and hackings. Besides the immoral logic of removing my rightful ownership of my artworks, there is no way I have any trust that "registered" works would be secure. When the system is breeched—because it will be—it will be near impossible to distinguish rightful owners from frauds; and such theft would have little consequence, and only punish those who followed the required process. It makes far more sense to automatically allow everyone their copyright from the inception of a product's creation and to fuel a diverse and competitive economy, than it does to allow everyone the same access to *everything*, further limiting currently available employment and lowering the value of existing employees in addition to a more stagnant monetary flow.

The creative fields concerned with this law may not often be at the forefront of conversation or concern, and are often deemed unnecessary; but the fact is everything we interact with throughout each day has been designed by a designer, from your digital tablet to your breakfast table. Artists are an integral part of everyday life that we heavily depend on. If you want a high living standard, encourage laws that will promote quality work from artists, not discourage them. This stands for drawers, painters, sculptors, graphic designers, app developers, website coders, photographers, videographers, animators, writers, and the list goes on. Already I can name an aspect of my daily life affected by each of these sectors alone. Who wants to question if their wedding video was properly registered or not to avoid it being used in commercials? Who wants to see their Facebook photo flippantly used on hemorrhoid advertisements? Who wants their life's content to become a profit buffet for others? Absolutely no one.

Worst of all, if this law cannot protect professional artists, it certainly cannot protect the youngest content makers, some of which being middle schoolers entrusted with smart phones and tablets. Each child essentially has become a photographer, whose images and videos could be up for grabs. This law would open the floodgates for malicious and vulgar sites to take advantage of any existing loopholes to exploit young media users more than they already do.

Copyright reform needs to come from people who have concern for the welfare of others and the future of our economic health. Lazy and greedy proposals will only eat away at the weak points in our societal structure and allow anonymous, immoral persons to run rampant with an unending selection of personal, educational, and professional content. This will affect not just creatives, but anyone with an internet connection. I highly encourage voting against this measure and any like it, and I deeply appreciate your time taken with this letter and your efforts to ensure that the best decision is made.

Sincerely,

Andrea Valdez

Look Development and 3D Modeling
Graduate of Platt College and PLNU