July 20th, 2015

Maria Pallante
Register of Copyrights
U.S. Copyrights Office
101 Independence Ave. S.E.
Washington D.C. 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 Maeve Broadbin and I am a current graduate student at the Savannah College of Art and Design. I am a concept artist, which means I work mostly freelance. Someday soon I hope to teach future artists about my passion as a full professor, currently I am a teaching assistant.

I am writing on behalf of my future, but more importantly, on behalf of the future of my students.

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

It is apparent that this bill would greatly endanger the livelihood of artists, the creators of content, and support companies that have no hand in content creation. For freelance artists, this would completely ruin their careers, as it takes their product out of their hands from the moment it is created.

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

Because artists and creatives are already very weakly protected, there are many enforcement challenges. This bill only stands to make matters worse by helping large companies profit from art that was previously weakly protected.

In art school, there is often no Copyright 101 class, there is no business management, there are no lawyers that sit down with you before graduation to explain how to safeguard your job. And that is the unfortunate that we must learn to protect our jobs against so many outside forces in this day and age.

My students are preparing to graduate and have no idea how to go about hiring a lawyer, and many still haven't dealt with publishing companies or larger clients. Their specialty is creating art. You would not expect an electrician to sell his services but then suddenly be forced to work for a larger company for free simply because the service exists.

This bill is a huge future challenge for them and they have no idea how to protect themselves.

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

Like the rest of the world has done, registration for artists should be done away with. The United States prides itself as a country that is forward thinking and a land of opportunity. Registration offers so many monetary and time-based challenges for artists that it renders the occupation a complete waste of time within the U.S.

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?

When I create artwork, if I use someone elses photograph, I credit them and make sure the artist that posted the work is notified. However, this is not a general practice of mine and I prefer to use my own photographs. My work is credited wherever it is posted, with my permission. If this bill passes, these so called "challenges" would be moot because it would be exponentially harder to create work at all without getting paid for it.

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

I feel as if these decisions are being made in favor of bigger businesses, with little knowledge of how difficult it is to be an artist. The Office should be aware of how difficult it is to create art, how difficult it is to become noticed, and how much the economy relies on creatives. Advertising, Healthcare, Education- these are some large areas that depend more on artists than they care to admit.

6. What are the most significant challenges artists would face if these new copyright proposals become law?

Personally, I would have to find a new job. I would have to advise my students to find different careers. I would have to give up what I love. The system would allow for companies to get away with not paying for services. I hope the Office does take time to think of how many people this is affecting. Companies have already been withholding revenue from artists, from secondary licensing in reprographic markets.

Thank you for reading my letter. I hope I have done the best I can to protect my students.

Maeve Broadbin