U.S. Copyright Office
101 Independence Ave. S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20559-6000

To Whom It May Concern,

As a visual artist and a person who enjoys art, I love what is happening on the Internet today. Artists of all kinds are able to share their work with anyone at any time without the gatekeepers such as publishers that used to be necessary to share artistic work on this grand scale. I believe this way of sharing our art and ideas with the world needs to be protected. The images, stories, and other aspects of art we are able to enjoy happen solely because artists keep their work their own. We artists can build something that belongs to us and has a benefit and purpose in the world. Because we own the work, we can control that purpose so others can see it in its intended way. When that part of the art is stripped away does it not loose it meaning?

I've been working as a commercial artist for only10 years but the idea of registering all the work I've created in that time is overwhelming, probably even impossible. It's daunting to imagine registering everything I create even in one week. The time this would take out of my work hours would be great. The financial burden would also be impossible to meet especially for an artist at the beginning of their career.

Artists need to keep the rights to their own copyrights for many reasons but most of all because in America we have a right to private property. This right is important in order to keep us free. It's also important for our capitalist economy that we own our own work. If we want artists to continue to create work and share it for the benefit of others the work needs to remain with them.

Sincerely,
Manelle Oliphant