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:

As an aspiring artist trying to get into the field, I am fully aware of the importance of copyright as it pertains to artists and their works. Many other artists use copyright as a way to make a living, and if the orphan works comes into effect, I fear drastic change in the lifestyles of my colleagues. I am grateful for the opportunity to voice my opinion on this topic, and shall answer the proposed questions to the best of my ability.

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

Essentially this would enable credit to be taken away from the artist, meaning when consumers viewed an image they would not know the creator behind the work, and said creator would not be commissioned for any future projects. These commissions are how many artists get the finances they require to pay bills, care for a family and live a normal lifestyle. Taking away their credit means taking away their paycheck.

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

Building off the ideals of the majorly opposed orphan works bill, these new copyright laws will enable corporations to take the revenue and credit that belongs to artists and use it for themselves. Artist struggle enough in the field competing with fellow artists without major corporations joining in the competition.

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

In short, the fees. Registries will require fess which will only escalate in costs over time. For the artist, who is already making less profit from these new laws, this means even more financial burdens and they will not make enough profit to live off of. It would be best to do away with registries all together, instead of reinstating them, as the artist is going to suffer from it.

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?**

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Personally, I only use other visual images as reference for my own works. Nothing is taken from another piece of work except inspiration.

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

There are much too many to list in this letter, yet if enough artists speak up you may get a fair amount of different issues this brings up. Personally I am going to bring up the issue that this has been an ongoing battle with copyright and artistic rights for many years. For as long as I can recall artists have fought to protect their assets. From any artist who is currently working with their copyright, to those, such as myself, who are preparing to enter the artistic field, copyrights are a vital tool to ensure each creator's content remains theirs, so long as any and all profit from said content also remains theirs.

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

Simply put, earning enough to make a living. One of the biggest issues with the new copyright law is that artists will loose valuable revenue and potential future clients who would create even more revenue. Artists use their copyrights to ensure commissions to make profit to pay bills and care for a family, keep a roof over their heads and food on the table. Artists do not make enough to live luxuriously, and taking from what little they already make will only make artists suffer more.

In summary, artists use copyrights to protect their own works and make a livable profit. Taking away and/or changing these copyrights for the purpose of corporations will decrease the revenue earned by an artist on his or her own works. These new laws will also induce fees, taxes and other costs which will further take away from said artists' profit, making their lifestyle much more difficult to make a living off of. It is for the best to leave the laws as they are, and not reinstate registries or allow major corporations rights to art that is not theirs to use.

I thank you for taking the time to hear my opinion on this matter, and I urge you to not pass the orphan works law, or at the very least exclude visual art from the provisions.

Thank you,

Megan Moreau