Lorraine Mullett, artist . . . PO Box 4213 . . . Windham, NH 03087

Maria 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)
July 22, 2015

Dear Ms. Pallante & U.S. Copyright Office Staff:
How would you feel if you worked long hours developing a style of art . . . went to school . . . earned your Masters Degree . . . and spent a great deal of your adult life . . . making art . . . designs . . . illustrations . . . developing a character . . . and now find that the protection . . . my right of ownership to my work is being legislated away from me and my grandchildren?

It is sad to think that our life's work is being lost to us "the makers of Art" because . . . there is no searchable database of visual art . . . the protection from infringement is being lost (no statutory damages) . . . This leaves "the makers of Art" open to exploitation.

As my friend Michelle Baker (Michelle Baker Design, LLC) most eloquently said,
"Visual images are intellectual property and tangible inventory rolled into one. It is critical to the credibility of any creative professional to maintain ownership over the exclusive rights of their original work in order to monetize the work, as well as to operate a sustainable business in today's global economy. With the Internet came a new world of challenges in protecting images, but it also provides us with dynamic tools to identify breaches and to catalog and document creation information. A simple "reverse image" look up on Google allows me to locate web sites using images that I own, simply based on visual recognition tools. Ease of tracking and registering ownership over visual images IS here. Today, more than ever before, we have the tools and the technology to link artists to their creations with far more ease than ever before. But to hand over the power of such registry to privately owned, for-profit companies is reckless and has the potential to basically enslave individuals to corporate exploitation that will strip individuals of their inherent rights granted to us by the founding fathers of our country. Please consider the long term cultural repercussions of such a shift in the property ownership of visual assets."

One of the key ingredients in a happy life is being appreciated . . . feeling an earned success . . . if enacted this new “Orphan Works” legislation would strip “the makers of Art” . . . the little guy . . . of much of the protection that allows them to feel they are making a creative contribution to our world. I cringe thinking that this new law would lead a large corporation to send me a letter telling me to stop doing my art or drawing my character because it . . . under the new law . . . it belongs to them.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Lorraine Mullett, MFA

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