July 21, 2015

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)

Dear Ms. Pallante & U.S. Copyright Office Staff:

I am very concerned about the potential changes to the Copyright Act. I have been an artist and jewelry designer for more than 15 years. Although I am not a full time artist, I have many friends who are and who would be severely affected by this change. In addition, I am in the beginning stages of creating a new blog and a new artistic endeavor. Thus, I know firsthand just how hard it can be to come up with original work. That is why it is SO critical, that artists be protected by the Copyright Act that is currently in effect. With what can be done via the internet, it becomes even more essential that an artist's livelihood be protected from fraudulent use. Infringement upon an artist's work is paramount to stealing money from them. We work long and hard to build an inventory. To have something unique and exclusive can make a difference in whether or not you are able to generate income from your work. If someone decides to utilize that same work, it dilutes its value for the artist who worked so hard to create it.

As I am embarking on a new career as an artist, I would be very unhappy to have others monetizing my work, without my consent. I am sure that you would feel the same way about the work that you do!

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Best regards,

Mary Anne Fellows