Dear **Copyright Office,**

My name is Minnie Phan and I began my illustration career over a year ago after graduating from the California College of the Arts. I live in Oakland, CA and have been primarily working in editorial and book illustration. In the short time I've been working as a professional, I have witnessed the importance of understanding copyright laws and maintaining ownership of one's work.

Our artwork is not free. It is not for a corporation's exploitation or use (not without consent or purchase at the least!) It is also not to be given out for free to the public. Our society greatly appreciates art and its applications, yet refuses to support the creators. If we lose control of our rights and ownership to our work, then we will be left with little tools to survive. Artists must run a business and in this digital age it is easier than ever to steal art and lose ownership. Our artwork DOES NOT lose value when it becomes published. We can allow an organization to publish our art, but we maintain full rights, including the ability to print images and merchandise, even sell the original work if desired. If the legal world we navigate is also designed to take from us, then our business will slowly die and opportunities for artists to create will also vanish. We need a world that values it's creators as much as the products.

I am still at the very beginning of my career and strongly believe that a dramatic change in the copyright laws will deeply impact my life and work. I hope you consider young creatives during your discussion of copyright laws and remember that the artists/designers/craftspeople behind each work need to live off our creations, but just hand it our for all to take.

Thank you,
Minnie Phan