July 19, 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 and the Copyright Office Staff:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the problems visual arts face in the marketplace. I'm a young artist and have just earned my BFA. I should have a voice in this matter just as much as a well-known artist as it directly affects my chances of success and my intellectual property as a creator. This could change my life and I haven't even established myself in the field yet.

I'm writing to stress that for me, and for artists like me, copyright law is not an abstract legal issue. Our copyrights are our assets. Licensing them is how we make our livings. Take that away and we won't live…

I am prepared to struggle for years in order to establish my style and create a demand, but with these changes it could be nearly impossible. I understand that the Internet, for example, is an unspeakably beneficial place to put work to be seen and shared, but also know that it creates a vulnerability that non-creatives can't comprehend. Imagine your work, things you put your heart, soul, blood, sweat, tears, money, time, and skills into is viewed by others as up for grabs, free, and disregarded as yours in totality. This eliminates an entire sector of people not only in the United States but the world. The world needs artists. We go where others will not and take risks they wouldn't dare. We lead the rest of the world into the dark but bear the light as well. To take us away is to deprive humanity of a most valuable perspective and knowledge. To eliminate the protection we need over our work and property erases us. I fear that many of the changes now being proposed by orphan works lobbyists would end the lives for artists as we know it.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope that you will make not the 'right' choice but the choice that takes everyone into consideration, not just the artists and not just the people and organizations who will benefit from essentially legal theft.

Sincerely,

Marissa Finazzo