July 19, 2015

Dear Copyright Office in regards to this newly proposed Copyright bill:

My name is Matthew Najarian. I am currently studying graphic design at a university in the United States. The field I am entering is already extremely competitive in terms of developing new and innovative ideas; by passing this new bill you are not only affecting my colleagues and I, but artists worldwide. If this law is passed, artists will not only have to worry about their current competition with other artists, but competition with infringers over the authorship of their own work. By proposing mandatory registration for an artist's artwork, you are putting an already struggling demographic into a vice grip and robbing them of their livelihood. An artist's right to their work is their means of survival, removing this protection will leave artists vulnerable to piracy and allow corporations to monopolize the art market. Essentially you are proposing a bill that will legalize the theft of private property. This is flagrantly unconstitutional and violates multiple international Copyright laws.

This affects me personally, as well as art students across the country, because it hampers our ability to market ourselves digitally post graduation and will essentially dissolve an entire generation of artists. Lifting the current copyright law will leave a student's digital work, whether it is on social media sites, art blogs, or online portfolios vulnerable to being infringed. In order for recently graduated artists to comply with this law, they will be forced to spend a whole lot of money and years of non-income producing time to protect authorship they are already entitled to under the current copyright laws. This is especially damaging for students who are already burdened with increasing interest in student loans and struggling to find jobs as it is, as they would now be expected to cough up money they don't have in order to protect the artwork they've created.

The proposal of this new copyright law directly affects the livelihood of artists domestically and internationally and should not be passed. The law proposes an impossible burden of compliance as a condition of protecting work artists create, have created, and will create in the future. If passed, this law will do a lot more harm than good.

Respectfully,

Matthew Najarian