JULY 23, 2015

Dear U.S. Copyright Office,

I am writing in regards to the Copyright Protection for Certain Visual Works. I believe it is a massive disrespect to visual artists to pass this law.

I went to Otis College of Art and Design, where I received my B.F.A. in Illustration. I am not practicing illustration professionally as of yet, but in order to do so I would need to have the rights to my own intellectual property. As it stands, I would be devastated to discover that someone is using my works without my permission or knowledge, especially if they were using it for a message I do not support or monetizing my work. I am not earning enough to make a living as it is, and to pass this law would destroy my chances and collapse the vibrant commmunity of artists and illustrators. There are so many students and graduates that have dreamed of being able to create as their job and to survive on their creative skills.This law would essentially be robbing artists of their money, and hardworking people of their futures.

Artists are already extremely vulnerable sharing their work in this digital age, and there are numerous cases of individuals and companies stealing their work for profit. Anyone even slightly involved in the visual art community knows someone or has experienced firsthand the distress and violation of getting their work stolen and turned for someone else's profit. It is extremely important that other artists and I retain the rights to their own works as it is essential to their survival. Every piece is a culmination of education and experience, which are extremely individualized. To take this investment of hard work and time and make it public property would be a huge blow to all creative enterprises.

I am deeply against this law and implore the U.S. Copyright Office: please, do not pass this.

Sincerely,
- Rachel Fujii