To the Copyright office.

To whom answers this letter.

Hello, my name is Ross Tawiah, as of now I am not yet a professional artist, but I aspire to be so in time. I have dreams and plans to make something of a living out of my artwork, due in part to my passion for art. Including, but not limited to, drawing, painting and animation among other things.

I'm here to write about my concerns over copyright.

Right now, and for the foreseeable future until something (or several things) changes, I am able to post my work anywhere, be it online or offline, and not having to worry about, and/or be cautious of someone, or a company, a non-profit orginzation, or any entity whatsoever being able to take my work, and use it to their own ends with me not only able to receive no kind of compensation if they infringe on it, but furthermore (they) can state that because I failed to for instance, register it with a commercial registry, was considered 'orphaned' or free game to use.

This including but is not limited to works posted in the past, the present day, or forseeable future.

I have seen on the front page of the US copyright office website, under 'recent reports and studies' dated June 4th, 2015, Orphan works and mass digitization.

For my awareness this is a report and nothing more, but potential for some kind of legislation to for instance, make it required that I need to register all my work in the past, present and future to copyright registries, specifically commercial or even public ones, is for me a cause of concern, among other actions that may be regaraded as necessary to protect such work to begin with.

I'm writing because regardless if this is a report and nothing more, or start of a new bill, act, law or legislation, that I am concerned none the less, and would like a situation where I can post whatever it is I have, and not have to worry about other people or entities taking my work, and claiming it as my own.

Nor be concerned if they attempt to make it a derivative work in such a way that they can claim it as their own. Be it now or at any point in time period, and me unable to do anything about it.

I do have aspirations to be more of a professional, and even as a hobbyist right now and for the foreseeable future until I become a professional, and after I do so, I would like to post and work on things and being able to make an income off my work and effort, without worry or need to register my work with a registry, or such works used without my agreement or approval and being being unable to do anything becasue I had failed to register it.

While I am not in complete agreement with copyright as it stands, I am in favor of it in so far as including, but not limited to, being able to post work that is mine, and not worry about it being stolen or claimed as an orphan work, due to a failure for me to have it registered. I would like to be able to determine by myself that what I may post is something I would use for income, or simply to be for non-profit means without issue including what was already stated earlier.

If such a situation, where it would be required for me or other artists to register my work with a registry, or be concerned that anything I have posted or done at anyplace anywhere, be able to be taken due to failure to register and copyright it on an indvidual basis (if assuming current copyright laws were rendered null and void), was a reality, my career as an artist, would be effectivley over, or even as a mere hobby. Me, and any other artist period.

I want to be assured that as of now, copyright be it today and in the future, and retroactively will be such that I can do all of before mentioned, and once more, not having to register, or be concerned that my work or anyone else's work for the matter, can simply be claimed by a company or individual or set of individuals or anyone or thing, to be used unless I give permission, approval or anything that signifies that I am connecting to such use.

That if such a case were to happen (people using my work without my permission and/or making an income from it), that I would be able to if necessary, take it up to legal action, and being able to have legal basis for a chance of winning such a case(es).

I hope I have stated this clearly, if there is any confusion, I am more than willing to clear it up.

Finally, I leave you with this,
http://www.spiderrobinson.com/melancholyelephants.html it's a 3 page read, and it give better insight to not just my own concerns, but that of every artist out there, big or small. I would attempt to summarize it, but I would do it no justice, it is best to read it yourself, if you have not already.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

A hobbyist, concerned citizen, and hopefully in time, a professional artist (independent artist at best)

---Ross Tawiah