Renee Barratt **The Cover Counts • thecovercounts.com**
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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 & U.S. Copyright Office Staff:

My name is Renée Barratt. I am a graphic designer based in Oregon. I've been designing off and on for 35 years, but have settled into a niche of book cover design since 2010. I have a B.A. in Interdisciplinary Social Science Education, from Michigan State University, and an M.S.Ed from Western Oregon University.

Digital art and I grew up together. I learned it as it developed and I've followed along, keeping up as it's gotten more and more complex.

As an artist and a businesswoman, I'm extremely concerned about the changes in US copyright law. My livelihood is based on the fact that I own what I create and no one can use it without my permission. My designs are my products and I need them to be licensed to protect my interests and my business. I fear that these changes will strip me of my ownership and leave me with no recourse should someone use or copy my work without permission.

It is important to my business, my brand and my bank account that I have control of how, when, and by whom my work is used. Anything else is giving permission for others to steal from my pockets, steal from my business and therefore steal from my family. My work is created specifically for publication. It has no value without it. What is a book without a release? What is a book without a book cover? Its very value is in the publication and its value is not diminished by its release. The value of my work is DEFINED by its publication. But its availability on the internet does not and should NEVER indicate copyright status.

If you take away my rights to control my past, present and future work, you take away the inventory of work that defines who I am as an artist and a business person. Any evaluation of future copyright law should take all of the above into account.

Thank you,

Renee Barratt
Owner/Artist
The Cover Counts
thecovercounts.com