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)

To Whom it May Concern,

Thank you for taking to the time to listen to the artists and allowing us to tell our stories of the difficulties we face in the art industry. My name is Paige Pippen, I'm 18 years old and I'm terrified of the prospect of finding my place in the art world, especially if these copyright changes go into place.

I have been working for years to develop my art style and abilities, and time and time again I have been faced by numerous challenges about trying to market my art and protecting it from theft and wrongful usage. More often than not my efforts are belittled, by lobbyists and corporations who do not appreciate the artist. I make a type of video called "speedpaints" (video recordings of pieces of art from start to finish sped up to reduce the time to a short amount of time). In my current video, the first minute and thirty seconds in real time it's actually around 50 minutes of work.

I'm afraid that under the proposed copyright changes my 50 minutes of work of an in progress piece would be made worthless, as my work will be at threat to misuse with no credit to myself. These changes would effectively make it extremely difficult to achieve my dream as a professional artist, as my art could be stolen, misused and sold without my approval.

I will try to answer your questions, to the best of my abilities, and I pray you do the right thing and protect the artists.

1. *What are the most significant challenges related to monetizing and/or licensing photographs, graphic artworks, and/or illustrations?*

Currently I am a freelance artist. In my generation we refer to our work as "commissions". As of now this is how I monetize my work. The biggest challenge though are people who uncaring of my work, my 50 plus minutes, and steal my work to sell or use for their own purposes. This is already a huge issue, under the proposed changes I might as well give up. Making copyrights private sector would make it impossible for me to protect my work. My commission works are to

pay for things like college and rent, not to pay for an endless supply of private sector licensing my work. It would be like a snake eating it's own tail.

2. *What are the most significant enforcement challenges for photographers, graphic artists, and/or illustrators?*

These proposed changes themselves are a challenge enough. It's already hard enough to find a place in the art market, these changes that mirror the Orphan Works bill would only make it harder for me and other Americans who only wish to pursue their dream. Being taken siriusly in the art world is hard, businesses and corporations never want to pay for art but they always want it. If someone asked you for 50 minutes of your time, but then didn't pay you for your work. Wouldn't you be upset? My abilities as an artist are being demeaned and belittled, and the fact that these changes are even being proposed is a huge insult to me and fellow artists everywhere.

3. *What are the most significant registration challenges for photographers, graphic artists, and/or illustrators?*

The introduction of having to pay for registration would make being a working artist, by all means, impossible. Especially for us artists who are just entering the field and are just scraping by on our day jobs as it is. Shelling out to protect our work, would line the pockets of other people just me and many others have a chance of succeeding. Being a freelance, or commissary, artist is the equivalent of a small business. Having to give up money to pay to register every piece of our work would drive us into the ground. I don't want to give up my dream, and I don't want to see the younger generations never even consider it being a dream.

4. *What are the most significant challenges or frustrations for those who wish to make legal use of photographs, graphic art works, and/or illustrations?*

As a growing artist I do occasionally use others work as reference to help build my skills. This does not mean I publish their work or use their work for monetary gain. Never would I try to claim or sell someone else's work. I get upset about the idea of losing my own 50 minutes of work, why would I do that to someone else. I actually fear the idea of having my work abused, and I fear for others who do have their work abused. I'd rather see bigger challenges to using others works then smaller ones.

5. *What other issues or challenges should the Office be aware of regarding photographs, graphic artworks, and/or illustrations under the Copyright Act?*

I am young, I don't know of the strugglers my peers have struggled over the past years. Yet, I do know of some serious struggle as an artist. Time and time I see people steal and claim art works as their own, selling it in stores without even consulting the artist or giving them a portion of the revenue. I don't want to see a recolored, edited, or just flat out stolen piece of work being sold. It's an insult to the artist it was stolen from and to artists everywhere. There should be

changes to protect artists more than they are now, artists already have to fight to make a living and not be cheated under the current system. These rewritten Orphan Works ideas would destroy the art industry. Theft and abuse of artists work is the only thing that will come of this.

6. *What are the most significant challenges artists would face if these new copyright proposals become law?*

I would never be able to be a professional artist. I would probably also cease to publish my works completely. If my 50 minutes is going to become useless, I might as well make it useless on my own grounds. I won't be cheated and stolen from. Yet it would break my heart, as it would mean giving up on my dream. This is America, but these changes would take away my dream. America doesn't take away dreams, it creates the land to grow them.

Thank you for reading my letter. I hope that outside interests like big businesses and lobbyists, whose only goal is more money for themselves won't be allowed to influence the already shaky ship that is the art industry. My dream is at risk here, don't destroy it please. Don't destroy so many people's dreams and livelihoods.

Sincerly,

Paige A. Pippen