July 17, 2015

U.S. Copyright Office
101Independence 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:

My name is Katelyn Kulak and I am an artist that currently makes their living by creating and selling my artwork, both past and present works in digital and physical mediums. I'm writing to ask that you create a policy to protect visual creators' rights as I don't believe the current proposals do that.

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

As a freelance artist, my current source of revenue is based completely on my creations. This also includes selling past images as prints, digital files, etc. Therefore, my collection of work is a valuable resource that continues to produce income for myself. A system of copyright laws that would benefit internet companies by not providing compensation to me as the original artist, would endanger my ability to make a living. So many artists I know already have problems with certain internet companies digitizing their artwork without permission or financial compensation. We need the government's protection and support for creators. Without protection, artists like myself can lose their income. Without incentive and support to continue creating, many artists would completely stop making new work. Why would the government favor corporations and/or infringers instead of the creators?

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

I'm not sure how to answer this question at this time.

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

As a "small time" artist, I have literally thousands of images that would fall under this including creations across photography, graphic design and illustration fields. (In one night of concert photography I can take upwards of 600 photos at a show. That is at one concert, in one night.) The amount of time and paperwork to register all of my own work would be staggering. I can't even imagine larger artists who have 10 times the amount of work that I do trying to comply.

By forcing artists to register their work to protect their copyrights, the government is taking time and money away from artists that could be focusing on creating instead. All the work put into registering images takes away from income producing time. Since I am a small artist, all of my time is spent creating more work for sale. If I have to register each piece, I lose that creation time and therefore start to lose my revenue.

If these proposals are made into law, artists like myself would be forced out of the industry. New artists would stop coming into the industry. I can't see any artist encouraging young artists to enter a industry were their work is not protected and supported unless it has been registered.

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?*

I personally only use other's images as inspiration or under fair use. For stock images and textures, I secure and pay for the appropriate license. I do not "remix" or "sample" other creators' protected works.

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

Please realize that this is many people's livelihoods on the line. The current proposals for visual art would be staggering to the community and might cause a sharp drop off in any new works across the whole industry.

Sincerely,

Katelyn Kulak