Maria Pallente

Register of Copyrights

U. S. Copyright Office

101 Independence Avenue, S.E.

Washington, DC 20559-6000

Regarding Notice of Inquiry, Copyright Office, Library of Congress

Copyright Protection for Certain Visual Works (80fr23054)

Dear Ms. Pallente,

Thank you for receiving and reading my letter.

I am an artist, illustrator, like so many I am self-employed. It's a "hard row to hoe" as the saying goes, a balance between being my own salesman, agent and the guy who executes the labor.

As you've probably read and heard many times by now, people in my line of business don't make a lot of money on the average and sometimes the satisfaction that comes from owning what I create is all most of what I get in return for my labor. It is so easy for people to lift an artist's work from the internet and probably everyone in my position has had images simply copied and pasted and used with no regard for the owner of that image.

People in my position don't have the resources that Walt Disney has to go after the ones who use our images freely, for profit, with no intention to pay… and it is exactly as if someone reached behind the counter at a deli, or any small business, and walked off with something without paying.

There seems to be a perception that artists, writers and musicians simply do what they do and they love to produce work for anyone at no cost.

Please defend our need for copyright protection. If we don't have the strength and protection of our government here we basically have nothing in this digital marketplace. Please fight against the concept of orphaned art in any form, with the exception of a long, lifetime plus many years protection before a right for free public use, and the ruthless trend of users demanding the surrender of all rights to work we produce.

Sincere thanks for your attention,

John Randall York

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Tyler, TX 75701

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