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Maria Pallante July 23, 2015
Register of Copyrights
U.S. Copyright Office
101 Independence Ave. S.E.
Washington, DC 20559-6000

Notice of Inquiry, Copyright Office, Library of Congress Copyright
Protection for Certain Visual Works (Docket No. 2015-01)

Ms. Pallante and the Copyright Office Staff,

My name is Radiant Jasmin AKA Jasmin Davis-Shearer. I am a Visual and Performing Teaching Artist from Boston. I am writing because I am very concerned about the proposed changes that will impact visual artists. I earn my living from the creation and sale of my drawings, paintings, photographs and other visual art mediums.

From what I understand the Copyrights are going to be distributed through private entities. There will be no governmental department monitoring these entities. The Copyright Office is going to dissolve and all of their former responsibilities would be undertaken by private entities. Artists would bankrupt themselves to comply with the private registration if they are required to register all works, whether it was a sketch or finished work.

From my understanding, these private entities are for profit. They have no reason to protect the rights of artists and will be able to exploit artists if they have not registered and even if they are, there are enough loopholes that artists can still be legally exploited. Commercial infringement will be the standing order of the day.

My intention is to remain with what we have, if it’s not broken, why go about the trouble to change it? Since current Copyright law works and preserves the rights of visual artists without bankrupting them there is no reason to change it for the benefit of private entities looking to further exploit visual artists through such means as mass digitization.

The earnings of a freelance artist is unpredictable enough without taking away what we have. The USA has lost out to many other countries with the decline of the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Math) disciplines in our education system, we are finally starting to see a slight increase in these areas, but will backslide if up and coming artists see no benefit in pursuing a creative career.

Under current US copyright law, if one's work is registered with the Copyright Office and was infringed/used without permission, compensation for attorney fees are covered and statutory damages are awarded, this makes the most sense and is as it should be.

Thank you for your work in protecting copyright holders.

Keep on Creating,

Radiant Jasmin