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

Dear Ms. Pallante and the Copyright staff,

I am an aspiring artist and student. I have been making art for over a decade, and Although you must have worked hard to create this act, I am afraid I do not agree with this act. My art takes much time and is too valuable to be 'orphaned'. When I let the internet see my art, I am not abandoning it just so anyone can have access and not give credit to me when they use it for financial or legal purposes For someone to make money off of my work that I showed publicly for free, it seems awful to make it look like I gave it up.

My art is a part of me. Every finished piece I made is mine. Permission, discussions, and agreements can be made. However, everyone cannot take my art, my credits, my rights, and make it theirs. It feels uncomfortable, if not condescending. If this is something you are that passionate about; using art from artists, leaving them in the dust of theft, I don't want any part of it. The hard work I have put myself through to make my art should be noticed and at least appreciated. I would like to be credited. I would like to be paid by companies who are willing to request permission for the use of my art. I do not want to constantly register my art, run through search engines to find my art, worried that it will be infringed.

1. **What are the most significant challenges related to monetizing and/or licensing photographs, graphic artworks, and/or illustrations?** The inspiration to make such masterpieces is a significant challenge. To ponder on an idea seems easy, but executing it is a hassle. Thumbnails are stressful, let alone the first line. When I finally get done, I feel proud. Another challenge is making sure everything is perfect or acceptable. It may take hours, days, months even. For example, I can't imagine having to see my art in a magazine, not credited by me. Seeing millions of dollars go to the magazine company and no acknowledgement or a even a paycheck to the person who created it.

2. **What are the most significant enforcement challenges for photographers, graphic artists, and/or illustrators?** The biggest challenges of enforcement for visual artists is trying to make it happen. Some of us don't exactly want to go the extra mile of a lawsuit. If this law becomes legalized, the infringer could be protected by the law. Therefore, I could never get credit for something I did. I would like to have a chance to get myself justice. To have my art protected by the law, and able to get my art back if wrongfully taken.

3. **What are the most significant registration challenges for photographers, graphic artists, and/or illustrators?** One hard registration challenge is whether I should put a signature or not. The challenge with registration is figuring out how to protect it. How to show people my art without giving it away. The passive protection law completely protects me and is much more easier than registering every piece of my art just to show the internet my work.

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 realize that everyone will see and appreciate my art. For some to underhandedly make legal use of my art is condescending. This is a problem, for not just me, but for everyone. If the only way for us to prove that what we created is ours is registering it as soon as we're done working on it… It's awful. That's why I appreciate the freedom I have and want no changes or new laws like this one whatsoever.

5. **What other issues or challenges should the Office be aware of regarding photographs, graphic artworks, and/or illustrations under the Copyright Act?** One of the biggest things to be aware of is trying to make sure it's okay to show. To try and remember that I need to put a signature on my work just make sure everyone knows it was me. Another issue is remembering that the world is not very kind at times, which means I will have to fight for my rights to protect my work from infringed.

6. **What are the most significant challenges artists would face if these new copyright proposals become law?** I will have to do my recreational art in secret. I will take big steps in protecting my work from being infringed. Discussing and trusting people enough to see my art, digital or traditional, will have to be arranged. I probably closed down my blogs because of this. I do not want my art to be devalued to the point that just anyone can take it because I 'orphaned' it. Definitely, I would be keeping my art from the public eye, believing that certain ones can never be trusted. That's a hard life for an artist when all you wanted to do was express yourself to family and friends, almost unaware that people will use this law to take that away from me.

Sincerely yours,

Urna Semper