JOSLYN SCHMITT
ANIMATOR.ILLUSTRATOR.MEDIA ARTIST.
JOSLYNSCHMITT.WORDPRESS.COM

July 20, 2015

Maria Pallante

Register of Copyrights

U.S. Copyright Office

101 Independence Ave SE

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 Joslyn Schmitt, a Media Artist from Robbinsdale, Minnesota. I am a graduate of the Minneapolis College of Art and Design with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Animation. I am writing to you in regards of the proposed Orphan Works Law.

It is terrifying to me that the Orphan Works bill is being proposed. If this bill turns into a law it will make it easy for infringers to take my work and all work posted by fellow artists. Many artists already face challenges of having their work stolen/altered from people and large companies. Passing this law will only make it easier for people to steal from the hard working artist.

Second, you would be making life immensely difficult for all artists trying to survive. Creating is their biggest asset, it is not only a form of expression but is a tool they use to make a living. A lot of us have families to support, piles of bills to pay, and like me, have a lifetime of student loan debt to pay back. Artists create over hundreds of work, if they have to register each sketch, each thumbnail, each illustration, you are making it IMPOSSIBLE for them to earn their way of living. It is not only tedious but expensive. As an artist who creates her own original work, I should not have to register to protect my work. I made it, it is mine, if someone wants it or wants to use it they need to ask my permission and or pay for it. I went to art school to improve my craft. I put in a lot of hard work and hours for what I do. I have a skill that not everyone has and can use. I should NOT have to give that up for free.

I hope you understand and will make the right decision to not support infringing individuals and companies. Bury this bill for good. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Sincerely,

Joslyn Schmitt