July 20, 2015

Maria Pallante
Register of Copyrights
U.S. Copyright Office
101 Independence Ave. S.E.
Washington, DC 20559-600

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 Katherine Daugaard, I am a recent college graduate and, while I may not be a famous artist or anything, I am someone that is setting up the foundation to become a freelance artist or potentially an artist within a company. While I may not enough experience to address all of the questions from the inquiry in detail, I would like to provide my summarized input as to how they relate and impact me.

If I were to become a freelance artist, how would I advertise what I was offering and invest in potential buyers? Through social media. Yet to do that, the most impactful way to reach people would be with visuals, as people in general pay more attention to visuals than simple text. I would want to create infographics, post sketches, or display ideas or concepts in a blog to catch attention. Many of these people would be interested in seeing samples of my work, and, if copyright registration fees were in place, with that simple need I would already have a deficit budget from the start. If I were not to register those images though, I would not start out with a deficit budget, but would end up leaving those images free to be exploited by others. Neither of which is something that a freelance artist could afford, considering the amount of time and effort that it takes to create art. If such pieces were made free to anyone for any use, then the pieces would lose value, and artists would lose demand for their work and skills, in turn shutting down their opportunities for work.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Sincerely,
Katherine Daugaard