My name is William Pyle and I am a graphic designer / artist. The suggested new copyright law is abhorent and would negatively affect my ability to earn a living by an incredible amount. I absolutely should not have to register every, single piece of artwork I have ever created or will create with private copyright registries in order to protect my work. I should absolutely always own anything I create, unless I work out a deal with a client who has purchased the necessary rights to use my work. My work should not be free to use by anyone because that person/company thinks it is too hard to find out that I created the work. With things such as reverse Google image search, the plehtora of social media sites, etc, there are very, very few instances where someone would not be able to find the original creator. And in those rare occasions, then too bad. Nobody is entitled to use someone else's work just because they like it and want to. If you find a piece of artwork you like but can't properly contact the creator, than there should be no way for the person/company/etc to use that work in any way. The creator/owner of the work should retain all copyrights unless the work is properly licensed.

You have asked people to answer some questions about this, and here are the questions with my answers.

1. What are the most significant challenges related to monetizing and/or licensing photographs, graphic artworks, and/or illustrations?

A: The only real challenge I have is with marketing and clients not respecting my profession and not wanting to pay a fair price for my services and or work. There are a seeminly infinite number of other graphic designers / artists working today and the field is highly competitive. Clients that I have worked with have never had a problem finding or contacting me, nor have they ever had a problem properly licensing my work.

2. What are the most significant enforcement challenges for photographers, graphic artists, and/or illustrators?

A: People steal work constantly. A lot of art thieves have no respect for visual artists and feel entitled to use whatever they want for their own profit, illegally. Changing copyright laws is not going to change this, it is only going to make it easier for art theives to steal work and then claim ignorance when they are caught.

3. What are the most significant registration challenges for photographers, graphic artists, and/or illustrators?

A: There are no registration challenges. When I create something, I own it. If you change that, then there will be problems. I will have to spend a significant amount of time, effort, and money registering and protecting my work. Time, effort, and money I most likely don't have by the way.

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?

A: There aren't any other than laziness, not wanting to pay to properly license work, and a sense of entitlement when it comes to using whatever they want. Like I've already said, it is not difficult to find the original creator, if you spend the time. There are numerous ways that can be done. You should not be allowed to get around contacting a creator and obtaining proper licensing because you are too lazy or too cheap.

5. What other issues or challenges should the Office be aware of regarding photographs, graphic artworks, and/or illustrations under the Copyright Act?

A: Art thieves are everywhere. 99% of artists can't afford to sue someone who steals their work. If you change the law, you are just allowing art thieves to legally steal someone else's work with no consequences.

I have added one more question.

6. What are the most significant challenges artists would face if these new copyright proposals become law?

A: I've said it earlier, but most artists won't have the time, energy, or money to register their works. So with the new changes, their work will be freely available for anyone to use. That is wrong. Nobody should be able to use something solely because it exists. If a person/company/etc wants to use an artist's work, that person/company/etc should obtain the proper licensing to legally use the work. I don't see how allowing any unregistered work to be used by anyone and everyone benefits anybody. If these laws change, I will seriously consider giving up my profession and removing all of my work from every single place I can find it. I won't be able to afford to register all of my work, and because of that, no client will ever have to pay for the work. They can all just claim they tried to find and or contact me but failed, regardless of whether or not they actually did.

So in closing, please, please reconsider these new changes. Copyright law isn't perfect, but these changes are absolutely terrible. They will do nothing to protect artists and it will only make it even easier for thieves to steal an artist's work and use it for profit.

Thank You,
William Pyle