Dear Copyright Office,

I am a freelance artist, and recently graduated from Southern Utah University with a BFA in Studio Art. I received honors for excellence in Illustration while I was there, and continued on to work as an assistant to fantasy artist Todd Lockwood. As a recent graduate in this day and age, it is very hard to get an entry level job as an artist, thus basically forcing me into a freelance position. As a Freelance artist, I control the manner and quality of how the art I have worked so hard to produce is seen in the market place. I can negotiate the percentage of revenue I can expect from the uses available to me. I depend upon the protection of the existing copyright laws to allow me to sustain my livelihood and help provide autonomous creativity.

The proposed Copyright Law will remove my ability to control my creations. It would force me to register my art with a third party, and pay out of pocket for protections that I should already have. This means I will pay for more copyright protection while having to allow digital access to my work by a corporate entity. This creates even more opportunities for infringement due to fact that I must rely on a third party to protect my intellectual property, who do not have my interests in heart. This takes more money out of my already small income in order to keep the protections that I currently hold.

As a freelance artist, no company offers me retirement or health insurance. These are things that I must pay for myself. The fact that I may have my sole source of income taken from me and distributed for free would make it impossible for me to continue working and living as an artist. And to protect myself from this happening, I would have to give up most of my income anyway in exchange for less protection than I have now. I use reproductions of my images to increase awareness of myself as an artist, draw in new clients, and supplement my income. We live in a time when people think it is okay to use any art they find as they see fit, and this change to copyright law will protect these thieves more than they would protect me, the creator who relies solely on the income generated by my art.

For me, and for all working artists, copyright law is not some abstract legal issue. It is what the foundation of my entire future is resting on. I rely on the current copyright law to allow me to control how my own creations are viewed, used, and distributed. With that right taken away from me, I would have no say in who uses my art for their own monetary gain if I was not able to afford to pay to register every piece of work with a corporate entity, which is a very real possibility for young artists such as myself. I need the protections I have now. I rely on them. All artist rely on them.

Stacie Pitt,

http://staciepitt.com