July 15, 2015

Maria Pallante

Register of Copyrights

U.S. Copyright Office

101Independence Ave. S.E.

Washington, DC 20559-6000

RE: Notice of Inquiry, Copyright Office, Library of Congress

Copyright Protection for Certain Visual Works (Docket No. 2015-01)

Dear Ms. Pallante and the Copyright Office Staff:

“I'm writing to stress that for me, and for artists like me, copyright law is not an abstract

legal issue. Our copyrights are our assets. Licensing them is how we make our livings.”

I don’t fully understand the logic of the decisions that are being discussed recently of changing the Copyright of Visual art, but from my understanding, it does not seem logical in the slightest. This would render artists almost obsolete. Especially younger artists who are selling artwork for, possibly, the same amount of money as the registration fee. Therefore, how would we grow to be artists if we are not able to profit from our artwork? Or for that matter, be able to own what we make on the little spare time between jobs?

A few of the questions we were meant to answer:

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

As a recent graduate, paying for it. Getting to the registration office. The whole process of doing it will be troublesome. As you know -in America- the job rate for recent graduates is extremely low, especially artists. This will take away the little ownership and pride of what we are good at away from us. Some people I’m sure would even give up being an artist, if everything we make isn’t ours. And lastly, none of us would be able to argue with a company that would want to use our work without our permission. We are small in comparison.

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

I’m currently out of the country working on artwork, painting, and doing other various things. What does this mean for me? Will there be an official office, or will this be a digital process? Since I’m out of the country at the time of an internet post, does this mean that I am amended from these “upcoming” rules? There will be countless upon countless issues to come with this,

and you will indirectly, and directly putting people out of jobs which if I recall, is the opposite plan of the American people.

From myself:

I think that this could potentially destroy the art community. You will still have artists who love to make art, and said people with jobs that are helpful in registering their artwork (that is used for the company), but as a new artists, this just seems completely unreasonable to ask. And as though it was made by people who are standing 10 feet outside of the circle who have not taken into the consideration the process in which we already go through.

I don’t understand how this has resurfaced a third time after being defeated before. I feel that as though within 165,000 letters, congress would have a fairly good idea of how discerning this is for artists and the livelihood of artists.

If this is not sincere enough, I would like to reference you back to Brad Holland’s letter in complete agreement.

Sincerely,
From a recent graduate in difficult times,
Travis Hayes