July 19, 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 write to you as a graphic designer and fine artist with an interest in protecting copyright laws and the livelihood of fellow artists. For 17 years, I worked in the graphic arts industry, specifically in advertising and promotions. As designers, we communicate and connect with viewers using the magic of images and words that are created by writers and artists. It was our job to secure permission before using any artwork that we did not create in our own studio. We hired illustrators, painters and photographers. We licensed photographs from stock image banks. We paid for the images that worked for our purposes in a campaign or print materials. It was not always easy or time-efficient to go through this process, but it was and still is, the right thing to do.

I have great respect for photographers, illustrators and writers who labor over their creations for hours at a time; who depend on the income from their craft to make a living. Photographers impact our world with their images; images that take time, effort and skill to capture. Fine artists and illustrators are painting and drafting beautiful images that move us in ways that we cannot measure. Writers are artists too; writing and re-writing their work to convey something that has never been heard before, something original to them. These people have the amazing ability to create something where there had been nothing. They synthesize information and intangible experiences and make them real for all of us to see, hear and feel. Their skills and talents have the power to move peoples' hearts and minds. In some cases, these are God-given talents; in other cases, they are skills that are hard won through years of training, trial and error. Artworks are of significant value and deserving of payment.

Original works are hard to come by in this world of digitalization. Artists should be protected in their rights to claim their hard work as their own, as an original or as a copy. Please do not allow the copyright laws to be changed to an extended collective licensing program. Let's not deny artists their opportunity to be paid secondary rights income for works that would not exist without the artist.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Terri Schmitt

TERRI SCHMITT LTD.
FINE ART
513.382.5029
studio@terrischmitt.com
1355 Custer Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45208
www.terrischmitt.com