To whom it may concern,

I have been informed of the recent upturn of this rather intriguing “orphan” law that is being brought up. I will speak bluntly and up-front about this topic, for I feel that this idea is a rather neurotic and shameless attempt for many companies to make money.

The document itself was indeed a long read, but from what I gathered, it is supposedly going to “help” stop those people who steal artwork as their own, or use it in other works without permission from the artist. This supposed “fix” for the problem will not make the problem of copyright infringement, or theft of art better. It will only allow for the stealing of artwork to become legal.

Why is this “unregistered art being orphaned art that anyone can use” considered “stealing”? Art itself is someone's imagination, it is something they created, whether of use for themselves, or just to show people. Art is not to be treated as a thing that can be passed around to anyone, even if it is against the artist's wishes, unless they pay for their art to not be “orphaned”.

This proposed idea does not help creativity, it will diminish it in many aspects. It will make people not want to show what they've created for fear someone else will claim it as their own through means of purchasing a license to it. Not all artists can pay for licenses to their artwork, so it boils down to whoever has the gall enough to steal artwork, then pay for the rights to that artwork.

There were questions I was asked to answer, so I will do so:

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

- The hardest part of monetizing and/or licensing above stated forms of art is understanding how the licensing works. After that, it just becomes secular knowledge that we have obtained and can use to increase the stability of our artwork. But even then, if money is involved, money will always be a problem.

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

- No matter how many laws will be passed, and no matter how many safeguards are put in place, enforcement is all about people being willing to obey a law. There will always be people who are willing to steal things, and that is a tough fact artists have had to learn.

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

- Why make it cost money to register artwork in the first place? Many of these artists make

money off of the artwork they create. They can't make a living if they keep having to buy registrations for the artwork they make.

What are the most significant challenges or frustrations for those who wish to make legal use of photographs, graphic art works, and/or illustrations?

- While I do find it challenging and frustrating, it makes sense to me. There is artwork that is copyrighted for a reason. It's because it does not belong to us. We may want to use artwork for a project of ours, but it is watermarked. We'd then need the permission of the artists to use artwork.

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

- There will *always* be theft in artwork. There is no way to absolutely fix it. It is up to the community to weed and rat out these thieves. This law trying to be passed doesn't solve that, it just makes it easier for thieves to win at arguments, especially if they have the right money.

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

- There are many of us who would be squeamish about showing our art to people. Many people would ruin their images just to place giant watermarks on their pictures so people know who made it. Thieves will be able to buy legal rights to the artwork they stole, and no one can stop them. The list can go on.

Sincerely,

John Shorten