Jason A. D. Shirriff
221 Farrelly Drive,
San Leandro, CA 94577

Maria A. Pallante, Register of Copyrights
U.S. Copyright Office
101 Independence Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20559-6000

July 21, 2015

Re: Notice of Inquiry on Orphan Works and Mass Digitization, Copyright Protection for Certain Visual Works.

Dear Ms. Pallante,

I am a practicing architect and a fine artist and believe it is of critical importance that I and those I work for maintain the copyright on my creative works. At no time during the creation of my work over the past 30 years, and before, did I think I would lose copyright of it once it was shown to the public. In fact, quite the opposite, it identifies me to the public, as a marketing tool which is invaluable to my identity and stature as an artist and professional.

I've spent over 2 decades developing my ink drawing artwork, named "Anschel Ink Drawings". I've received 14 awards for the artwork in the past 6 years. Essentially self-taught, I created this work because it is not typical. It came directly from me and my life's experience, with ink, drawing, architecture, art, my background, and education. I currently have the work available for sale, and have agreements with art sellers who have my work for sale. Although I don't sell a large volume of this work, it is a legacy of mine which I intend to continue to pursue until my death and leave as an asset for my children and family. Arts sales can be a fickle thing, and sometimes can take a lifetime to blossom, including after the life of the artist. If I didn't hold absolute copyright to this original work and its reproduction, I strongly believe I wouldn't have created it, investing my time in it, in the first place. Why would anyone, when a corporate entity could just come along and take it away for their own interest? Loss of copyright would be a deadly blow to the creativity of this nation and humanity. Because I don't make much money on the sale of my artwork, paying to register the work would be impossible. Simply exhibiting the artwork is expensive in and of itself and I am limited in how much of that I can do as well. While I can't exhibit the work as much as I would like to, owning the copyright to it is its greatest value to me in the short and long term.

Regarding architecture, I've worked in architectural practices since 1987. I received my 5-year Bachelor of Architecture Degree from the Southern California Institute of Architecture in 1994.

In 1999 I became a licensed architect in California. I've received 2 awards for my architectural illustrations from the American Society of Architectural illustrators. I have been an employee in architecture firms since 1987 and currently at the same firm for 18 years. Copyright is a standard in the architecture and building industry also. The fact that our architectural drawings and work are copyrighted by us, and in some cases our clients, is a key factor to staying in business. In addition it is a deterrent which protects prospective clients (the public) from individuals misrepresenting that they designed, built, or drew something when they in fact did not. While architects stay focused on client service and building quality, the fact is the 100's and 1000's of drawings we create have a great deal of intrinsic value, yet to be realized. In addition, the thought that these drawings would be released to the public for widespread use would render our expertise obsolete in their uses, and be a disservice to the public health, safety and welfare.

From personal experiences I know what it is to be disenfranchised. Disenfranchisement is one of the greatest human crises faced in life and has been throughout human history. The loss of my rights, my family's rights, or my employer's rights where applicable, to hold copyright on my creative work would be exactly that, disenfranchising. I didn't become an American in 1994 with the belief that this could happen to me in this great nation. I strongly object to the intent of the new copyright law being proposed.

Sincerest Regards,

Jason A. D. Shirriff,

Architect, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, ASAI