July 20, 2015

US Copyright Office

Re: Notice Of Inquiry, Copyright Office, Library Of Congress, Docket #2015-01

My Comments On Orphan Works:

I am writing this office to request that this office protect the copyright of the artist that has created the work and continue to allow the artist to control the licensing of their work to other parties.

I am an independent graphic designer, I create artwork to sell on t-shirts, fabric and other products on print on demand companies online. I have been working as an artist for about 5 years. I do all my work from home and don't make enough money for an office. My funds have been used for software to create digital images and my computer and any profit I have made has gone to paying bills.

Many hours are spent on each image I submit to be used on articles for sale. I submit my digital art images electronically and work with the print on demand companies under the license terms by each company. Each company recognizes the artist as the copyright owner of the images submitted. My images are my inventory which is presently protected by today's copyright laws. These proposed changes would be taking my current inventory, which is thousands of products with my images, and make them subject to use by anyone because I have not paid to register them with a future copyright registration company. I believe this is ethically wrong.

I also write a few blogs and share my photos on the blogs. I don't want people making money off my family photos and other photos shared on my blog.

I do not have the money to go through every image I have ever submitted to the internet to register it for copyright. I am assuming photos shared on social media will also be subject for people to steal and make money off of them too.

This proposed change to the current copyright law will allow my competitors to use my work without my consent. No other industry allows persons or companies to take works and use them for their own businesses without any license fee payment to the original creator. Please take the time to look at how this will hurt people like myself. Print on demand companies have thousands of artists like myself at each company. This is our livelihood that is in danger.

These changes will put the small independent artists like myself out of business and will be harmful to our economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this subject.

Sincerely,

Kathy Gagliano