July 22, 2015

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

Dear Ms. Pallante:

I am a practicing artist and have been for the past thirty-five years.

Protection of my art has a direct bearing on my income. Licensing my art in various forms provides needed income and I am opposed to having third party corporate interests acquire the ability to make it difficult for me to protect art which I alone have created.

It would be absurd to think that some corporation through their lawyers and lobbyists, could establish orphan works laws which put the burden of proving that my intellectual property rights no longer belong to me, but become available to their clients or the general public. These groups have had no investment in my talents and would seek to exploit my creations for their gain and profit.

The fact that a corporation would be given the legal right to use my work without my permission based on their conclusion that they had made a "*reasonably diligent*" but unsuccessful effort to find me, and therefore conclude my work would be considered "orphaned," is ridiculous.

It is my hope that the Copyright Office will not return to copyright registration of every picture an artist wishes to protect. Personally, this puts a financial burden on me, since it requires time to have my images photographed, registered and mailed. Although registration would allow me to preserve my right to sue in federal court, that in itself would be an expense I am not sure I could sustain.

I urge you to reject the corporate world's effort to infringe on the creative process of artists. This is merely an attempt on their part to negate the copyright protections for artists. The corporate world's orphaned works proposal is a scam.

Sincerely,

John W. Clark
13330 W. Gelding Drive
Surprise, Arizona 853792