July 16, 2015

To the US Copyright Office,

If the Orphan Works law is passed it would essentially put all active on-line licensed product and print artists/photographers out of business! Why? It would allow anyone anywhere to take your art and use the Orphan Works as a legitimate excuse to legally use most any image and to sell it in a competitive form against its original owner/creator/business. As the owner of JQ Licensing I know that most of our 45 artists we represent do not register their works on a regular basis, it simply is too expensive to do that. They register them when they have an infringement issue. So these non-registered (Orphaned images) these artist had on the Internet through their own web, licensing sites, etc would instantly become essentially public domain images. In my opinion art licensing would be over due to the amount of companies and individuals having free reign to most images worldwide to use them at their own free will to sell back into the market. Under the Orphan Work's excuse of "I could not find the artist to ask permission"!!

Having been involved in many copyright infringements with my own art the one thing I know for sure is that once your images are on the internet and being stolen by others the (infringers) remove your name from the image. Making it impossible to find the original creator of the image. Regardless 99% of the time they don't care to look for the artist, they just want free art!! The only way to stop this repetitive use is by the heavy hammer of the current Copyright Laws on the books. It works so please leave it as it is. If you think China is an issue now for intellectual property theft, just wait! This proposed law does not make any common sense. It only makes total sense for those wanting free use of any image they decide to steal.

Taking another persons intellectual property to use for ones own gain is no different than breaking into a business and stealing its content! No matter the excuse given.

Thank You….

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