July 22, 2015

Comments regarding the proposed change to the Copyright Protection for Certain Visual Works copyright law & the Orphan Act:

I am against the Orphan Act & the proposed changes to the Visual Works Copyright Law.

Any artist's right to retain full ownership of their own works of art should be keep in tack and made as simple as possible. No culture is more enriched than the work of their artists and every artist should have the right to have their work both protected, as well as allowing this process to remain as simple as completing their works of art, and no more complicated than the public presentation of or sharing of their artworks in a public format.

Today are we are a far greater number of people and are all intricately now connected by the internet. More people mean more artists. More artists mean more competition for any artist to make a living. Artist should not be penalized for using a public format like the internet for advertizing of their work, nor should such a practice void them of their ownership.

The internet has become a necessary tool for all artists to utilize, in order to stay employed. Many employers today even require that their artists self promote themselves. In today's day and age that requires the use of the internet not just for artists but for everyone. Should anyone's product they share publically on the internet become free for all? It is a faulty theory that if you share it, it is no longer yours. The very notion is ludicrous and one that would have crushing consequences for artists to both promote and support themselves and their families. I know, I am part of one of those families. My husband is an artist and it is his job to provide for his family and his method of work is art.

Should the intended changes to copyright law become one that now all artists will be required to formally "Register" and "Copyright" their works in a time consuming and formal and expensive matter, it would be doing severe damage to an artist ability to survive. As it is already, my husband works extremely hard and is completely self motivated. He works more than 15 hours a day. Adding more pressure and more cost and more steps for him and other artist to have to take to promote themselves and their art would be financially & physically crushing. Should such a requirement be made of artists, it should be made so for all, not just artists, but also for anyone who takes advantage of sharing their products, works, thoughts, images, etc online.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Jennifer Proce,

Artist wife