July 13th, 2015

Copyright Office
Notice of Inquiry on Copy Protections for Certain Visual Works

Re: Orphan Works and other issues with potential new law

Dear Sir or Madam,

The Copyright act has protected works of art as photographs, paintings, written or 3D work to name a few. As a painter and photographer I appreciate the protection afforded to me in the current law. The challenge of copyrighting material in bulk or individual works are time and money for an emerging artist such as myself. I am a practicing artist who also works a day job to help support my craft.

The changes proposed will not provide any benefit to the artist and will, in fact, remove their personal rights to the art and the ability to make income from it.

I have experienced finding my illustrations on a web site in another country, advertised for use without my knowledge or permission. The changes proposed will legitimize this use in the US. Recently Facebook reposted a photograph I had taken of my oldest daughter with her 8mo son that I took on mothers day. It surprised me that they would take something so personal that created and use it without my permission. This is what the new law will make possible.

The cost to copyright each item I produce will not only take current income from my emerging work but will also take other income I use to pay my bills. I understand I can group the pieces to copyright but then I must not submit them to shows or display them in any way to qualify. I cannot do this as a working artist. To hold works will remove the option of income while waiting to collect a group is an impossible process.

"Good Faith" efforts by infringing individuals flies in the face of making a buck and the majority will claim good faith if legal action is taken.

Please, please, please do not pass this into law.

Continue to protect the rights of the artists who produce so much beauty and thought for our society. What the if the artists who produced 911 World Trade Center Firefighter Memorial Wall had the design taken and produced in another country or my photograph of my daughter, put on facebook as a comment to a baby's love to a mother was taken and produced as a card without my knowledge or ability to fight it. Please consider the artists all of the US who will be impacted by this proposed change and DO NOT make it law.

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