July 22, 2015

Library of Congress
U.S. Copyright Office
101 Independence Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20559-6000

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Johnathan George. I am an undergrad college student and an art hobbyist who tries to learn greatly at art. Afterschool, I study about the foundations and history of art and design.

What I love to be is a professional freelancer someday in the future. Most of my peers, whom I know in person and online, are freelancers that their work are based around on what they do such as; web designing for clients, character commissions, and creating comics. What I asked and learned about their experiences upon doing freelancer work is to always know about the business details, and always strengthen your copyright laws as an artist, especially when you are getting hired and working for someone. Be it a client, publisher, commissioner, or a company. Getting paid for what they designed for a client, an artist who make their own business and to get paid by the artist's commission rates, and a comic artist who has been published by a fair publishing business who then pays the artist for great outstanding work. All of their stuff is protected by their copyright laws that help them to get through life as a freelancing artist in this day of age. This current copyright law works for any artist, which is something that I would strive for to be as a freelancing artist, but this new upcoming law for the New Copyright Act that is coming won't work at all for me, or any professional artist.

This new law, that was originally called the Orphan Works Act, will create inevitable problems for not only professional artist, but for any artist who is soon-to-be professionals, young students, hobbyist, or anyone who published a certain picture or any type of artwork media. The new law means that whatever a person publish, a drawing or picture, it becomes the public's picture to use, rearrange, and register it as their own. With this knowledge, that somebody can steal and infringe art, fighting for it would be extremely difficult since the new law would support mostly to the infringer. Also, if this new law were to past, every piece, old and current artwork that any artist did in their lifetime, would need to be registered as copyright at an office as such. That actually frightens me since there are many artists who are busy with certain deadlines, financial struggle, and have to pay a substantial sum of money just to keep many pieces, instead of the current original copyright law where the artwork is just yours. Period.

Furthermore, since the new law includes that every piece of artwork of any kind to be mass digitized, the resignation would have to be mandatory if you need to keep all your pieces, which is daunting and stressful as it is since it eliminates the meaning of making a business of your own as an artist altogether. With skills and dedication of any growing artist and their craft, young, old, experienced, and amateur, big businesses don't have the decency to show any support for the artist at all. I do not want this current law to change since this new law does not give fair rights for any artist.

Sincerely,

Johnathan George