Copyright Act Proposals - theft of intellectual property

Imagine that instead of being a lawyer or a politician, your talent was being an artist, a vocation of which you have been aware since your youngest memories, that you trained and developed throughout your life - the gift from God that allows you to create works of art that have never existed before you created them from your own mind, vision, imagination, sensitivity and skills. Imagine you have excelled in your studies and earned degrees in art: Bachelor of Fine Arts from one of the finest art schools in the world, Massachusetts College of Art (and Design) and Master of Fine Arts from a fine university or art school, such as University of Massachusetts/Dartmouth, that you have had the honor of being on the faculty of Rhode Island School of Design, another of the finest art schools in the world, that you have exhibited your unique works of art - drawings, paintings, illustrations, photography and had your work recognized and won prestigious awards since childhood, one of which is the title of Copley Artist of the venerable Copley Society of Boston; imagine that your entire life - every working moment - is absorbed in creating visual works that have never existed before and that you have devoted hours of time and profuse energy at your profession, often for little financial gain. Then imagine, with a few strokes of a pen or some surreptitious manipulating of the governmental process, predators in the form of the largest governing bodies and wealthiest oligarchs, rip from you brain all of the rights to own your own ideas, to benefit the wealthiest, the greediest, the powerful and slick - whose major gift from God is in making money. Those villains steal from the spirit of creativity to easily take away your livelihood the very meaning of your life, your talent your gifts - to use for their own self aggrandizement. In so doing, they rob you and your family of food and home and legacy and sustenance. Imagine that Rembrandt or Leonardo Da Vinci or Georgia O'Keeffe could not own their own works of genius as they created them. Is this right? Obviously not. Every few years the Congress tries to strip artists of ownership of our own intellectual property with the so-called Copyright Orphan Act. This must stop. Please, Please, do not allow this hideous act to pass the Congress and cripple all creative artists and take from us ownership of our own creative works. Huge corporations pay billions of dollars to own patents, bidding against each other in a frantic bidding war. We artists have little but our copyrighted works and it is unjust to consider removing our artistic creations from the protection of our deserved copyrights. Please fight to keep our copyrights in our possession and do not let this egregiously sadistic proposal to the Copyright act pass.

Bill Gates and Getty images are two of the big money people who are behind this. Getty images are clip art that sells on the net for a variety of uses. These Copyright Act Orphans proposals are not what the lobbyists say they are. What it would accomplish, if passed, would be to strip artists, world-wide, of our rights to OUR OWN WORK that we have created through our lifetimes. We are creative people. Each one of us has our own unique way of seeing the world and our art is unique to us. there are no other photographs like an Ansel Adams or other painting like the "Mona Lisa", because these artists' minds created their uniqueness. We live very close to the poverty line as it is. Creating and exhibiting works of art is very expensive. We can not afford to be stripped of our meager incomes in an attempt to keep our rights to OWN OUR WORK. Our work exists in original form, reproductions and limited editions, each part of our inventory of what we sell. PLEASE OPPOSE THIS PROPOSAL. Sincerely, Sally Caswell, artist