In reference to the Orphan Copyright changes,

As an internationally known mixed media fine artist I have some concerns about this proposed act. If place digital media upon the internet and these images are for me to show my clients my artwork and jewelry right now I already own the copyright automatically. Why would you change what is not broken? You are more concerned with the corporate clout that wants to change our copyright protection to get enough loopholes to use our materials without proper restitution. If my work is pasted on social media and somehow my name is no longer attached by the wording of this document it could be claimed as an orphan work. Drawings are always signed but digital thieves can easily alter images to remove my signature. This is why I started signing my works in the internal areas of the piece to prevent this. My sculptures naturally are signed on the bottom.

Saying that a creator has to register to a private registry that charges is an infringement on our basic rights. The very people that need protection the most are vulnerable because they are trying to live hand to mouth. Seventy-five dollars a year to join the Plus registry is beyond the means of 80% of the young artists of the United States. Putting legal roadblocks like this will not support our growth as a nation.

You have done all the legal process , dotted every “i”, crossed every “t”,but you have not given due diligence to the community affected most by this new legislation.

There is no reason I can see to change what the artist is required to do monetarily. When an item is made it is automatically protected as the creators copyright. There is no way we can afford to fight big business or China from copying our works. If we have to verify our copyright holdings through private registries at our cost then you may as well start charging artists for air that we breathe.

Teri A Davis