July 21, 2015

Register of Copyrights
Orphan Works

To whom it may concern,

My name is Susan Card. I am an artist, primarily make paintings and am writing to address the negative issues regarding the proposed "Orphan Works".

I occasionally sell my original paintings but as most know you are rarely able to get paid for the time put into them. Consequently the sale of digital prints as well as reproducing my work on pillows and other items makes up the difference. It also brings in some income until I am able to sell the original.
If someone else was able to reproduce my work, especially large corporations my income would be totally under cut. I thought the copyright laws were meant to protect the rights of the person who actually made the work. This new law would remove our protection and we would simply be prey for larger corporations or businesses who have bigger pockets.

I have also found that people on the internet are already using my images to promote their articles on blogs etc without my permission and often articles I in no way agree with…it puts my art in a position as if I am in support of the said articles and I am not. Up until now when I kindly inform the people doing this that they cannot use my image they remove it. What kind of clout would I have if the orphan works is established? All the Blogger would have to say is I don't know who you are.
People are also using my images as banners on their websites…again when kindly informed they remove them.

My artwork is unique…anyone using it would waterdown the originality of my work and create confusion as to who was the originator.

The level of legal help needed and the costs to prevent people from using images of my work without my permission with the proposed loopholes would be unjust and many times impossible to pay for. From my understanding the laws exist for artist's protection, not to make it easy for artists to be stolen from. Why should I be put in a position to have to go through all the paperwork for each art piece and possibly have to pay or an artist group to protect me when that is the job of the laws of this land.

I thank you for reading my letter and considering what I have written. I ask you to recommend that visual art be excluded from any orphan works provisions Congress writes into the new copyright act.

Thank you,
Susan Card