July 23, 2015

Dear US Copyright Office,

My name is William Jaeger and I am a visual artist. I have been professionally working as an artist for the past 13 years, specializing in watercolor paintings. I sell my work through galleries, via my studio, and through my website (www.wjaegerart.com). I have a BE from Stevens Institute of Technology. My work has been recognized by the American Watercolor Society, the Baltimore Watercolor Society and other regional art associations.

I wish to express my concern with proposals in the Next Great Copyright Act, and in particular with policies concerning Orphan Works. As it may radically affect my ability to run my business, I am strongly opposed to any proposals that:

- Void/limit my right to exclusive control of my work and/or let others alter my work and then copyright this derivative work in their own name
- Privilege the public the right to use the art I have created
- Pressure me to register my work with commercial registries
- Orphan unregistered work and make that work available for commercial infringement
- Replace voluntary business arrangements between myself and my clients

The paintings that I solely create are the fundamental building blocks of my business. They do not lose value upon completion or publication but rather increase in value as my reputation and body of work grows. They remain part of my business inventory and the basis on which I earn a living. I have no problem with working with others who wish to use my work – but that must be done with my permission and under the conditions of my licensing agreements. I am strongly opposed to others having the right or privilege to monetize my art for their own profit without my knowledge or consent. I already suffer the consequences of foreign businesses that unscrupulously help themselves to my art without just acknowledgement or recompense. Don't make it legal for businesses to do it here. It amounts to stealing. It is my right to determine how, by whom, and at what cost my original paintings can or should be used.

I hope you will carefully reconsider some of the proposals concerning Orphan Works that can drastically alter the business of a visual artist. Thank you for the opportunity to comment and for considering my concerns.

Respectfully,

William Jaeger

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