22 July 2015

RE: Proposed Copyright Changes

To Whom It May Concern:

These changes (The Next Great Copyright Act: Orphan Works Act) that Congress proposes are an affront to the rights of all artists. It takes away the right of the individual to protect their body of work. It imposes unfair government rule over creative rights.

Why would Congress consider allowing others to profit from the hard work of an artist—allowing others to "legally" steal another's work without permission?

I vehemently oppose these changes.

It is a violation of our constitutional rights to the exclusive control of our work—a way to bypass the right to be paid for our work. Copyright protects our body of work as a source of income.

I only have a few years under my belt as an artist and a few more years as a photographer. As I build my body of work, it becomes an important source of income—and will continue to be a source. My work does not lose its value upon publication. It is part of my business inventory. If others are allowed to use my work as their own, it also hurts the ability for me to make enough to live on. Copyright also protects my work as proof of what I am capable of creating.

Sincerely,

Debra J Smith
aka dj jameson smith
Author | Artist | Photographer