Deanna Davoli
Visual Artist
July 10th, 2015

To The Members of Congress and All Parties Considering the "Return of Orphan Works, The Next Great Copyright Act":

I am a visual artist living in Palm Harbor, Florida. I work in traditional media (oil paints and pencil). I have and established business that I have worked extremely hard to develop for the past 7 to 8 years. I have a bachelor's degree in Art Education and Art History. I use my artwork as means of income.

After reading what the proposed bill for the Orphan Works, I am honestly sick to my stomach. I find this bill in no shape or form, is fair or even legal, because it is basically allowing theft. Every time I create a piece of artwork, I not only sell it at shows, but I use the internet as a means of selling, marketing and advertising it, as almost ALL types of businesses do in this day and age. I should (and every other artist) be allowed this right, without having to worry that my art, my ideas, my time and my money, can be legally stolen! That is exactly what this bill would allow.

Artists over the centuries seem to be a target for these types of attacks. Many people do not understand the time, effort, years of experience, trial and error, etc. that go into making art. Many people think "we should do it for free because we love doing it so much." With that ignorance, comes the lack of knowledge to understand their boundaries, which inevitably are then pushed. So let me describe a metaphor to put this in perspective for the non-artists out there. Lets say you have a dog. A dog you love very much, spent years training, cuddling, playing with….he/she is part of your family, is she/she not? You bring your dog to the dog park. The dog is now in the public and can be seen by all of the other dog owners at the park and even the passer-by. Now imagine anyone at the park, can just come and take your dog. Not tell you, or pay you, they just can, because you brought your dog into the public and now he/she is available to who anyone who wants it. Does that seem right? Or fair? Or legal? No it does not, because it shouldn't be and isn't.

On behalf of myself, and every artist I know, I must completely ask that this billed be denied! It would allow theft to be legal. It would take away my right, and every artist's rights, to use the Internet as means of selling, advertising and marketing our art (which all other businesses are granted the right to). It would take away one of the many freedoms which allow be to live in the United States of America.

Whoever reads this letter I thank you very much for your time and consideration. We need our voices to be heard.

Sincerely;
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