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To the US Copyright Office:

I am an artist, illustrator and photographer. I have a BFA in Fine Arts from the College of New Rochelle, NY and did further painting studies at the Institute for European Studies, Vienna, Austria, color theory at the Art Students League, NYC and computer graphics at Cooper Union, NYC.

The "Next Great Copyright Act" takes my work away from me and hands it to large websites and corporations who may, or may not, contact me before using it for their own profit.

Copyright laws are by definition made to identify and protect the creator of a work or there is no such thing as a "copy-right".

The "Next Great Copyright Act" says I can no longer own, use and protect my work myself. It says I must register my work from sketches, paintings, photos — past, present and future with commercial registries who will then, through "mass digitization," have "Extended Collective Licensing" which would replace voluntary business agreements between me and my clients.

These commercial registries are looking to sell products worldwide. As I understand this new act, a company could pay me a one time fee, let's say $150, for an image. They then use that image on a product, let's say a mug. If that is popular, the company will now repeat my original image on plates, note cards and magnets. If those items sell, the company can continue expanding their product line into other markets without ever paying me any royalty fee while they continue to sell and earn income.

Artists creativity should be respected. An artist should be able to make a decent living through his or her work but the "Next Great Copyright Act" not only does not acknowledge the artist as having ownership rights but clearly states any work that is posted on the web could be considered an "orphan" and therefore available for commercial use.

Please explain how any artist is supposed to make a living under this proposed act.

I trust your intentions are not to directly harm artists. Please show me then how this proposed copyright act supports and protects the artist.

Sincerely yours,
Deidre Moderacki