

Jule L. Sigall, Associate Register for Policy & International Affairs,

My name is Jennifer Young and I am a professional visual artist from Richmond, Virginia. I would like to make the comment that I think this legislation is a very bad idea and I am strongly against the passing of this legislation. Artists have a difficult enough time protecting their works and ensuring proper usage without having to worry about having their works fall into the orphan works category. Let the responsibility of proper usage and procedure fall on the one seeking the license or use, not the artist! My feeling is that, if the interested party cannot successfully locate the artist for use of the image or creation, then they should contract the use of another artwork from a different artist who they can actually locate.

Lord knows there are hundreds of thousands of artists out there who would be thrilled to have the work! And there are many artists who may not be readily accessible for a multitude of reasons, including illness, age, or just a desire for privacy. Just because the license-seeker cannot find the artist doesn't mean that artist should not have the right to grant or deny usage. Please, please consider the fact that artists are already fighting an uphill battle to protect their work. If the work is readily available on the internet, in print, etc., then the artist has to concern herself with plagiarized and pirated copies both in this country and internationally. If the artist decides to make her images and herself less accessible, now she has to worry about having her work considered as "orphan works"? I stress to all of those involved in considering this legislation to please consider these points. I have to wonder if many of the individuals behind this legislation are likely already making much more money off of artists' unique creations than any single artist could ever hope to make just by selling the rights to her designs. Please respect artists' unique creations and vote against this legislation!

Jennifer Young