Rebecca McConnell

Illustration + Design

2417 North Murray Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53211

Copyright Law Office,

Hello, my name is Rebecca McConnell and I am a working freelance visual artist. I am young artist, and have been working fulltime as a freelancer for 1 year now. I am writing a letter in regards to the new copyright laws that will are being proposed, in particular the Orphans Works law. **In short I whole-heartedly oppose it as it would destroy one of the legal building blocks on which my business precariously rests.**

For me, the Orphans Works laws would strip me of what little protection I already have as a working artist. In my first year of freelancing, I learned how incredibly difficult this profession is. As a freelancer you a single entity in a sea of larger corporations and stockhouses all claiming to do what you can do you faster, better, and cheaper. Because of the digitization of a lot artworks, many companies already feel a sense of ownership over works that artists post online, maybe because you cannot see the face of the person who made. **I cannot tell you the amount of horror stories I have heard from fellow artists detailing that they had found a larger corporation was using their artwork to make ungodly sums of money without them ever seeing a cent of it.** And this happens with all of the copyright protection that we have in place now.

As a small time freelancer, I can assure I don't make a lot of money, and **could not afford to register every single work that I ever done,** as proposed under this new law, and further more do not have the time as a business owner to waste on such ridiculous paperwork. Does the corporate lawyer proposing this law have any idea how much work an artist could produce that would potentially need to be copyrighted? I would have to fill out copyright registry forms, virtually EVERY WEEK.

It is very important to my business that I maintain control over who may use my work from the moment it leaves my fingertips, to the moment I post it online. **If this law were to pass, it is feasible to say that my business would no longer be a viable and respectable one**. Right now, I count on all of my works being under my sole ownership once I create them. With no legal protection from predatory businesses and individuals, my work would become increasingly devalued, and my livelihood would no longer be a livelihood at all.

Please please make sure that the Orphans Works act does not become law. The livelihood of many artists depends on the copyright laws remaining as they are now.

Thank you very much for your time,
Rebecca McConnell, Freelance Illustrator and Designer

www.rebeccamcconnell.com rmcconnell.illustration@gmail.com

(262) 716-5218