Maria Pallante
Register of Copyrights
U.S. Copyright Office
101Independence Ave. S.E.
Washington, DC 20559-6000
RE: Notice of Inquiry, Copyright Office, Library of Congress
Copyright Protection for Certain Visual Works (80fr23054)

Dear Ms. Pallante,

I wish to express my feelings regarding the new iteration of the Orphan Works system being proposed. Both through a set of recommended questions and through personal view.

1. What are the most significant challenges related to monetizing and/or licensing photographs, graphic artworks, and/or illustrations?
A:The most significant challenge is in finding an opening in the market as the majority of it is taken over by large businesses with significantly more financial resources than those available to the artists themselves.

2. What are the most significant enforcement challenges for photographers, graphic artists, and/or illustrators?
A: Financial challenges, as stated before the majority of control over the market for artistic forms belongs to large businesses with ample financial resources. Thus any attempt to protect the copyright and intellectual property of the artists is horribly inhibited by the financial disparity. The business that steals their idea has the resources to easily afford the costs needed to prevent and wage a legal war upon the artist to ensure they retain no rights to their work.

3. What are the most significant registration challenges for photographers, graphic artists, and/or illustrators?
A: Information as the first and finances as the second. In the first little to no information about registration is spread through the public. The latter is that many of the most open forms of information on the subject is available only through expensive services that insist they are the only way to obtain registration.

4.What are the most significant challenges or frustrations for those who wish to make legal use of photographs, graphic art works, and/or illustrations?
A: None. It remains a simple and easy process to contact and make proper arrangements with the owner of the art work and only requires that they provide the proper recompense for use of the work.

5.What other issues or challenges should the Office be aware of regarding photographs, graphic artworks, and/or illustrations under the Copyright Act?
A: Though a perfect law is never going to be a reality it should be clear that the priority for all laws regarding copyright and intellectual property should only be towards the originator of the work. The concerns of the businesses or corporations attempting to use or monetize the artwork should only be of the lowest concern of all and that if any concerns should be ignored by the law it should be those that belong to those organizations.

As of the current situation artistic works should be treated as any other professional resource. That is they should be the sole property of their creator and should not be utilized by anyone else unless they obtain permission from said creator. This does not inhibit the market nor does it have a negative impact upon any legitimate attempts to monetize artworks. The only persons inhibited by protecting the artists are those who wish to steal the artwork for their own use. So anyone urging for the new Orphan Works systems should be viewed with the utmost suspiscion.

Sincerely, Matthew Brown.