Meghan Foley
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U.S. Copyright Office
101 Independence Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20559-6000

To Whom It May Concern,

I appreciate the opportunity to present my stance on the Orphan Works law and thank you for your time in reading these letters. I will present my opinion and share my personal feelings on the Orphan Works law in the rest of this letter.

1. What are the most significant challenges related to monetizing and/or licensing photographs, graphic artworks, and/or illustrations?

For a young twenty-year-old digital artist just starting to dip her feet in the freelancing community, this new act is terrifying. Trying to make a living off of art in the twenty-first century is hard enough for most artists, in fact most of us have to hold down other jobs outside of our artist work. I myself am searching for a second retail job just to afford art supplies! It takes hours upon hours of work to make a piece of art and before even starting a piece an artist must practice drawing their subject, spend their own money on art supplies, and research details to figure out a composition for the piece. The idea that industries could abuse our work for their own profit, makes me want to quit creating art and posting it on the internet all together. It's obvious that large corporations want to cut costs by make it legal to steal intellectual property. They want to make money by taking work without paying the artist. In my, and many artists minds, this is thievery.

2. What are the most significant enforcement challenges for photographers, graphic artists, and/or illustrators?
Even without the Orphan Works law, many industries steal artwork. They find an image online, sell it on clothing and never contact the artist. The biggest challenge for artists is the fact that many of us don't have the funds for lawyers, and we have to watch our work be sold, and people buy our artwork as we get no compensation for our property. If a company cannot afford an artist, they should not have the right to steal art, it is simply not fair to the artist. It makes no sense for a company to take something that was created by another person without paying them. It's theft, and it leaves us artists struggling to survive. If artists cannot earn compensation for their work, we cannot make ends meet, and many of us end up stopping art all together since our work is seen as having no value. Obviously since companies want our art, our art has value and worth, thus we should be paid for our work.

3.What are the most significant registration challenges for photographers, graphic artists, and/or illustrators?
As a young artist, I have no idea how one is supposed to “register” their artwork. Does the art need to be approved by some industry in order to determine it's worth? Will artists be rejected from registering their art if their art isn't deemed worthy? Why must an artist go through a process of “registering” their

work in order to be compensated? Is creating something not enough to prove intellectual property? Even schools don't allow other students to copy homework as the original work is seen as a students property, so why must artists who work for actual money be required to register their work as for it not to be stolen or copied? What will happen to those of us with learning disabilities that have trouble comprehending registration? What if we are unable to register our work? I simply do not understand how our work is seen as “free” without registration. Artwork is a person's property and in order for another person to use our property they simply must pay us if they want to use our work. If something is of value to another, it only makes sense for an artist to charge a price.
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4What are the most significant challenges or frustrations for those who wish to make legal use of photographs, graphic art works, and/or illustrations?
5The only frustration I can think of is an industry not wanting to pay an artist for their work! If an industry cannot afford an artist's work they shouldn't be able to have the rights to the artwork. Even if an industry finds a piece of art they like, and cannot contact the artist, they have no right to steal the artist's work. It's about as moral to steal an artist's work when you cannot find them as it is to steal something from a store simply because someone isn't paying attention. Money is exchanged for goods and services and art is both a good and often a service.

5What other issues or challenges should the Office be aware of regarding photographs, graphic artworks, and/or illustrations under the Copyright Act?
Artists will not be payed. Industries will be able to legally steal work from artist. We will suffer, and will not earn compensation for our hard work. Companies will profit by refusing to pay us anything for something we created, they will steal our work and sell it as if it was their own.

I appreciate the time taken to read this letter and I hope my input will be of use. I thoroughly apologize for my simplified writing, but I hope to be taken as seriously as more savvy writers or legal representatives as input was requested and I hope the request is extended to those of us who have learning disabilities or aren't experienced in writing formally.

Thank you again,

Meghan Foley