Monday July 20, 2015

Dear Notice of Inquiry Office,

I have recently learned about the possibility of the Orphan Works Act. To me it would be unacceptable to allow such a bill to pass in The United States of America- a place where we pride ourselves on out unique way of life. Part of that lifestyle includes cultivating America's special genre of artists that no other country could compare to. We should be protecting our art scene by allowing copyrighting to work for them instead of against them.

The most significant change that would happen if monetizing photographs, graphic works, and/or illustrations would be outright changing our countries art scene for the rest of time. Without protections small artists will be wiped out by large corporations who only wish to make money with continued greed. We should support the individuals that constantly change the definition of "art" by shifting and expanding in ways that most people could never fathom.

My spouse is an artist, and I see them toil every day for hours upon hours to accomplish their works. If you allow the Orphan Works Act to happen, you're essentially threatening my spouse to adhere to rules for their talent in order to not be ripped-off and used. You cannot put such terrible structures around such a beautiful expression of self! Take for instance golf or gardening: if you were told you couldn't do either of those hobbies without having to go by a new set of rules that may end up killing your talent and getting you used for money, would you be happy? We cannot allow such a terrible thing to afflict people who are just innocently trying to do what they do best- create.

Allowing the Orphan Works Act will kill countless artist's dreams, motivation, and talent. You'd be telling them that they cannot create unless it's how the Government dictates. As American's we pride ourselves on freedom: freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of marriage- so why not freedom of artistic abilities?

Registration challenges are a constant for some artist's simply from lack of education about procedures or inability to do them. It's not taught in basic skills on how to go about standing up for your own work: and no one exactly makes it easy to do so either. It's not as if artists are required to register and just haven't been doing that- it's that they shouldn't have nor shouldn't have to learn how to do so. They are individuals, not companies. It is one person busy with the rest of their life trying to enjoy a hobby, only to be told them need to learn a bunch of new confusing things in order to enjoy them. Registering is not a requirement that artist's need to learn, nor should that fact change.

The Copyright Office should also be aware that artists everywhere are constantly having issues of art theft on a daily basis. Most of these acts occur online: where it's impossible to trace or punish the offender. Although there are some actions artists can try to take, they are usually time consuming or flimsy at best. The Orphan Works Act will only continue to feed that unjust stream of theft, greed, and selling of stolen artwork. Please help support artists by making the right choice: to let them not be taken advantage of by large corporations!

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

Ashley Campau