The Red Cockerill Gallery

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To whom it may concern:

I am very concerned about the Orphan Works Copyright law. Please do not pass this law.

I am a professional artist, and art more than any other profession has certainly taken a beating in the past years.

"The Next Great Copyright Act" would replace all existing copyright law.

It would void our Constitutional right to the exclusive control of our work.

It would "privilege" the public's right to use our work.

It would "pressure" you to register your work with commercial registries.

It would "orphan" unregistered work.

It would make orphaned work available for commercial infringement by "good faith" infringers.

It would allow others to alter your work and copyright these "derivative works" in their own names.

It would affect all visual art: drawings, paintings, sketches, photos, etc.; past, present and future; published and unpublished; domestic and foreign.

The demand for copyright "reform" has come from large Internet firms and the legal scholars allied with them. Their business models involve supplying the public with access to other people's copyrighted work. Their problem has been how to do this legally and *without paying artists*.

The "reforms" they've proposed would allow them to stock their databases with our pictures. This would happen either by forcing us to hand over our images to them as registered works, or by harvesting unregistered works as orphans and copyrighting them in their own names as "derivative works."

The Copyright Office acknowledges that this will cause special problems for visual artists but concludes that we should still be subject to orphan works law.

The "Next Great Copyright Act" would go further than previous Orphan Works Acts. The proposals under consideration include:

1.) *The Mass Digitization* of our intellectual property by corporate interests.

2.) *Extended Collective Licensing*, a form of socialized licensing that would replace voluntary business agreements between artists and their clients.

3.) *A Copyright Small Claims Court* to handle the flood of lawsuits expected to result from orphan works infringements.

- Copyright law is not an abstract legal issue, but the basis on which my business rests.
- Our copyrights are the products we license.
- This means that infringing our work is like stealing our money.
- It's important to our businesses that we remain able to determine voluntarily how and by whom our work is used.
- My work does NOT lose its value upon publication.
- Instead everything I create becomes part of my business inventory.

In the digital era, inventory is more valuable to artists than ever before.
Sincerely,
Ann Cockerill
Professional artist