Carstens
ART EMBRACING AWARENESS

TO: U.S. Copyright Office

FROM: Cyndy Carstens
Professional Artist
Gallery Owner

RE: 2015 ORPHAN WORKS & MASS DIGITIZATION

Thank you for giving artists a forum by which we have an opportunity to voice our concerns over the proposed new orphan act being heard in the US Congress.

I have been a professional artist for more than 30 years attending 3 universities and numerous workshops over the years. My work has appeared in 4 major news publications, 8 magazines and I have been the guest on 5 television stations. The awards accumulated are too many to list but include Best of Show, Awards of Excellence, Gold and Silver Awards in Painting, as well as Awards of Artistic Distinction.

I am a fine art painter producing original works of art. Copyright of my paintings is of utmost importance to me. It is not an abstract issue but my very life-line of business. My copyrights are the products I license. To dissolve my copyrights will, in effect, not only devalue my work but most likely put me at dire risk at making a living as an artist.

It is imperative to my business and artists everywhere we remain able to determine voluntarily how and by whom our work is used. Reproduction of my art does not steal its value as long as I have control to produce limited editions signed and numbered. By reneging my copyrights, all those collectors who have purchased these editions will find their investments at risk.

In the digital arena with social media being king, losing copyrights for the artists would be detrimental to all of us and could cause the art world a catastrophic crash.

Please do not allow this to pass Congress.

With sincere thanks,

Cyndy Carstens

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