July 19, 2015

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 (Docket No. 2015-01)

To whom it may concern,

As a preface, I'd just like to say one thing: I'm not a legal scholar, or a business owner, or even really a professional artist. I'm just a kid who's trying to make their way in the world by doing something they love. However, I believe that the Orphan Works act stands in the way of that, and in the way of all present and future visual artists who wish to make careers out of their passion.

Firstly, the defense of the "privilege" of the public to use and alter my work without my persmission is disturbing. It would mean that any company or private individual could pull my career out from under me by stealing work that I would otherwise be using to support myself. All freelance artists depend on the income of their past works to get by, but should pre existing copyright laws be overturned, artists will struggle to hold onto their own work, let alone sell it.

Please, I don't want to have to rely on the good will of strangers to not steal my work. I, and artists everywhere, simply want to be able to make a living off of the work we do, and put a great deal of time into. The Orphan Works act would leave hundreds of US artists struggling to take care of themselves and their families. Don't leave us to fend for ourselves in the corporate world.

Sincerly,
Allison Smiley