July 23, 2015

Notice of Inquiry, Copyright Office, Library of Congress Copyright Protection
for Certain Visual Works (Docket No. 2015-01) Dear Ms. Pallante & U.S. Copyright Office Staff:

Re: Orphan Works

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 "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.

It is already extremely difficult to track where my artwork is being used without permission online. This law will make it easier for use without consequences by unauthorized sources.

Copyrights are our source of income because lobbyists and corporation lawyers have "testified" that once our work has been published it has virtually no further commercial value and should therefore be available for use by the public.

This is an extreme violation of our rights. Please protect artists from this unscrupulous harvesting of our talents and income sources. We need the same kinds of protections that the music industry enjoys.

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