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July 15th, 2015

Dear US Copyright Office,

I am writing to register my anguish over this Orphan Works Act, again. The only entities who benefit from this are big businesses and unscrupulous thieves.

Here is the reason it is attractive to big business: They can claim that any piece they want to use is “Orphaned” because it was found online and there was no copyright notice attached to it.

Anyone with a passing knowledge of Photoshop can crop out or “photoshop” out any copyright notice which has been diligently placed by the artist to assure our ownership to our art.

Also, I can easily see thieves trolling the internet for good images, downloading them, removing the copyright notice and offering a catalog of stolen artwork for sale.

I have worked hard for my money. My skill set was not accomplished overnight. It has been a 27 year journey of college and professional labors. No one else has the right to profit from my hard work but me. The Orphan Works act threatens my very existence.

A major part of my business is licensing my art to people who want to use it. This revenue stream would be wiped out if this is passed. I could not survive. Please do not let big business and petty thieves steal my livelihood and cheapen my profession.

Sincerely,

Melissa A Benson