From the desktop of Michael Mayne:

Hello,

It has come to my attention that Congress is considering an overhaul to current copyright laws that would be detrimental to the people these laws should actually be protecting. I am one of these people.

I'm a humble artist making a meager living working from home, creating my own intellectual properties and providing my unique, creative services to clients who fairly compensate me as per mutual agreements.

It is my understanding that terminology such as "orphan works" describe artwork painstakingly and passionately created by hardworking artists that essentially becomes "up for grabs" by others if the original artist does not commercially file a given piece of work for copyright registration.

Currently, the law allows that anything created by an artist is in fact automatically copyrighted to that artist, without further need for registration. This makes the most logical sense because the sheer volume of artwork created by the hour by artists all over the world would require an entirely counterproductive amount of time and money to commercially register.

Copyright law was set up to protect creators, be they individual private citizens or corporate entities, equally and fairly. Allowing someone else whose bank account far outweighs their skill and reverence for hard work to "legally" purchase the copyrights to some belabored artist's work simply because the latter cannot afford the cost to do so for himself is simply wrong.

As a creator, I like to think I belong to a community that not only enjoys what we do, but is providing a degree of satisfaction, entertainment, and quality to the lives of anyone who supports and appreciates our work. Being a working artist is not easy, though the ability to communicate to a wide audience and ideally inspire others is a constant driving force. But if the proposed changes to copyright law come to be, the life of an artist will only become harder, strong-arming many able artists out of truly doing what they love.

It is out of these concerns that I make my plea to axe any legislation that would favor greed over the inalienable right for artists to pursue their happiness; because make no mistake, should the corporate lobbyists win and turn copyright law in their undeserved favor, many, many artists will not be able to practically afford to pursue their happiness.

Thank you for your time. With utmost sincerity,

Michael Mayne
Artist