July 17, 2016

Hello,

It is with a heavy heart that I have discovered that Orphan Works Acts are being called into question and Congress is holding hearings for the drafting of a brand new US Copyright Act. As a working artist as well as a college professor in Graphic Arts, I am disappointed and upset over this turn of events.

For myself and countless other working artists, copyright law is not an abstract legal issue, but the basis on which our business rests. If companies are allowed access to our work, infringing our work, it is stealing our income. In this highly evolving digital era, art inventory is more valuable to artists then ever before and as the artist, it is our right that we be able to determine how our artwork is used and by whom.

The fact that some lawyers feel that artwork loses commercial value once it is published and should therefore be available for use by the public is ridiculous. Making a living as an artist in any medium is hard fought as it is, yet still thousands of individuals pursue creative careers every year because it is what they love to do – create. Don't make it harder, if not impossible, to earn a living by moving forward with this.

There is no reasonable intent that welcomes someone else monetizing an artist's work for his or her own profit without knowledge or consent. It is stealing.

Sincerely,

Lisa M. Griffin
Illustrator, Designer and Professor of Graphic Arts