23 July 2015

I am very concerned about the implications of changes to copyright law being considered in the ***2015 Orphan Works and Mass Digitation Act***.

I am an artist and have been exhibiting and selling my work for over 15 years. My work has been accepted into several national shows and I've won a number of awards.

Owning and controlling the copyrights to my work is essential. While I think the internet and social media have brought new and interesting opportunities, these technology advances must not dilute the automatic copyright of my work – which I alone create and are my personal and business assets.

One of the most lucrative opportunities for an artist is the reproduction of original work and there is a very large market for reproductions (aka prints, gicleés, etc). Current laws do not require that register all my images in order to retain my sole reproduction rights. Having to register the many images that I create would be cumbersome, time consuming, and expensive. It's overhead that does not help me as an artist; I prefer to use my time productively, creating art.

I cannot agree to let other people, commercial entities, or organizations reproduce my work without my explicit agreement. In addition to needing automatic copyrights to protect me against reproduction of my assets, I also cannot agree to let others use images of my work to promote causes that I may not agree with, or to validate their own endeavors.

Please continue to protect the business assets of all visual artists by not enacting laws that would threaten our ownership and control of our work.

Regards,
M I Lorch