22 July 2015

Concerns about the Orphan Works Reports and Rumored Legislation

To whom it may concern,

It has come to our attention that there may be proposed legislation based on the Orphan Works reports, and what has been rumored is concerning to us. From what is understood the proposed legislation states that if one puts their work on the internet and share it with people, those people can take it and claim it as theirs. This is problematic because this makes it hard to sell one's work efficiently and safely since do not know if someone has stolen your work, claiming it as theirs in order to sell it. When this happens the original artists do not profit at all from the stolen works, and they can run into problems with the thieves trying to claim copyright to their work.

If the proposed legislation includes having the artists pay a fee to copyright, it is not recommended as many beginning artists do not have money to copyright every image that they produce, and artists should not have to pay to own their own art.

It is not fair to any artist if someone else can just come along and claim one of his or hers works because it is "orphaned." People should not be able to make a profit off of an artist's work when those people have done nothing; the artists will be financially ruined because then someone else will be making profit off his or her work while the original artist cannot. That is backwards.

The rumored legislation would help support art thieves.

Currently, corporations can take art and claim it as their own, all they have to do is alter the art work a little in order to claim it. From there, use the image so make a profit off of it which is stealing from the original artist.

It will kill the artist's career because it will no longer be safe for them to start out their careers, and there will be no joy in making any type of art anymore that they wish to share or sell. This is an infringement to intellectual property of the artists with the United States of America. If this is not what the rumored legislation entails, please correspond with a summary of the actual effects of the actual proposed legislation to ease the minds of your concerned constituents.

Thank you for you time and consideration.