July 20, 2015

Maria Pallante
Register of Copyrights
U.S. Copyright Office
101Independence Ave. S.E.
Washington, DC 20559-6000

RE: Notice of Inquiry, Copyright Office, Library of Congress
Copyright Protection for Certain Visual Works (Docket No. 2015-01)

Dear Ms. Pallante and the Copyright office staff:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the newest version of the Orphan Works Act. I will quickly address the issues I have:

2. What are the most significant enforcement challenges for photographers, graphic artists, and/or illustrators?

There are little to no legal repercussions for art thieves who use or redistribute content without the creator's consent as is. Allowing the newest version of the Orphan Works Act would further enable these thieves to profit on work they had no hand in creating.

5. What issues or challenges should the Office be aware of regarding photographs, graphic artworks, and/or illustrations under the Copyright act?

Creators will be hesitant to upload artwork under the newest version of the Orphan Works Act knowing that their artwork can legally be repurposed without their consent. As with sexual assault, silence does not constitute consent. Just so, content should belong to the creator unless expressed otherwise.

Content creators earn their livelihood from their work, and allowing their labor to become free domain by default puts the entire industry in jeopardy. Consent must be given, not assumed. Ownership of one's own creations is a basic right. I hope you take this into consideration.

Respectfully,

Ryan Andrade
Concept artist/Illustrator