July 22, 2015

US Copyright

RE: Notice of Inquiry on Visual Works

Dear US Copyright Office,

I am a photographer and painter with a professional art career that spans a decade as well as as a small business owner of The Studio Door, which seeks to assist artists through special arts programming and art-to-market (business) instruction.

I'm writing in response to the to "Orphan Works:" changes being considered to change existing copyright law. It is imperative for the marketplace that visual artists retain the rights to their works.

For emerging and professional artists, copyright is the basis of which we succeed in the marketplace. Infringing on my work and the work of other artists will deprive us of making a living at our crafts and talents. The new copyright changes would effectively put artists out of work as the visual arts that we create will lose all commercial value and put their careers at risk. Copyright law is not an abstract legal issue but the basis on which our business' rest.

Copyrights are the products that we license. It is important that our businesses remain in control of our products and be able to determine how & whom may use our work. The assumption that our artwork loses its value upon publication is incorrect. Publication increases the value of the works and significantly contributes to the future success of the artist as a business person. As an example, my art is reasonably known as it has served the advertising, editorial, public relations and marketing needs of publications, newspapers, small businesses and community associations.

I am writing to ask that you create policy to protect visual authors and their exclusive rights, and support a sustainable environment for professional authorship.

Sincerely,

Patric Stillman
Business Owner, Painter, Photographer