NANCY SLICK
ATTORNEY AT LAW
262 CRAIG HEIGHTS LANE
SEQUIM WA 98382
360.626.3996
NANCYCSLICK@GMAIL.COM

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United States Copyright Office

RE: Notice of Inquiry on Copyright Protection for Certain Visual Works

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great concern that I write to you in firm opposition of the proposed modifications to the Copyright Act regarding so-called orphaned works.

As you no doubt are aware, the currently proposed revisions would gut key provisions of the Act and annihilate the long-standing and justly established rights of creative persons to preserve their works and earn a living off their own training, talents, sweat and effort.

The proposed changes create legal loopholes that permit legal theft by raiding so-called orphaned works for personal and corporate profit. It is unconscionable and an embarrassment to this country that it would even be considered. You must realize that artists cannot afford to copyright every single piece of work created and to expect them to do so in order to prevent orphaning is delusional, impractical and ill advised. To raid their works without pay is shameful, and to legislate such raiding to permit massive theft is indefensible. Work should be paid for and compensated fairly and honestly. If the ghouls at the gate want creative product, let them pay for it as anyone would, and should, pay for any service. If they can't come up with something creative on their own and are not willing to pay for concepting and art, they should go without instead of purloining the work of others as though they own the copyright in that work.

I respectfully request that you resist any such modifications and that you vigorously protect creative works, as you are meant to do.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nancy Slick