To Whom it may concern,
As a person of independent and amateur photographer this 2015 Orphan Works and Mass Digitization Report cause me great concern.
1. What are the most significant challenges related to monetizing and/or licensing photographs, graphic artworks, and/or illustrations? As an amateur photographer who enjoys sharing my photos with friends and family, I am not concerned with monetizing my photographs, graphic artworks and illustrations. These are private photos of my wedding, my children, my pets, significant others, my body, my life, my friends. My concern is not monetary, but rather the potential explotation of my private life due to sharing my photos online with my friends and family. My photos, at times, could pass for professional quality work, but it is not my intention for a corporation to utilize my private moments and thoughts for their financial gain.
2. What are the most significant enforcement challenges for photographers, graphic artists, and/or illustrators? Currently, if a photo of mine is privately shared and someone uses my image without my consent, I can in good faith, ask the company to cease and desist using my image if it is used without permission and they will stop or at least I have due process to prevent them from further use and demand compensation. Under this new proposed law, my photos will be considered orphaned, my private life will be considered orphaned, and used for some company to shill some soft drink or use my pet as the poster pet for abused animals, when my pets are loved, dearly.
3. What are the most significant registration challenges for photographers, graphic artists, and/or illustrators? I take thousands of pictures every month. Every month I fill up cards and cards of pictures. Thousands. These range from selfies, to my family, my cat, my dog, trees, sky, mountains, floura, fauna. It is IMPRACTICAL to the Nth degree for me to register every single picture that I take or draw. Under the current law, if I take the picture, it is copywritten. I don't have to worry about someone stealing it if I share it.
4. What are the most significant challenges or frustrations for those who wish to make legal use of photographs, graphic art works, and/or illustrations? Frankly, I don't care if someone wants to use my PRIVATE photos for their commercial use if they can NOT get ahold of me or find me for permission. It's my body, it's my life, and I am not for sale. These images are of my life and in an increasingly public life that we share, what am I left with that is my own? Am I nothing more than an orphan to the state? Do people not care about whether or not I become a spreadsheet in a magazine such as Playboy WITHOUT my consent? I cannot condone or be a party to this. Copyright does not just protect art, but my person, my self.
5. What other issues or challenges should the Office be aware of regarding photographs, graphic artworks, and/or illustrations under the Copyright Act? I honestly think that the Office of Copyright is not taking into account the private individual. The undue burden for someone to become 'famous' without financial compensation can be a nightmare. To prevent someone from stalking the newfound famous person is an undeniable financial and unsettling burden for someone who does not want that. To be recognized constantly could cause delay, stress, and anxiety and otherwise mental stress to the point of duress. In effect, if enough people commit suicide, end up on anti anxiety medication and other psychological ailments, it could be considered enough to bring a class action law suit against Congress.
Do not approved the Orphan Works Act.
Sincerely,

Rebekah McGunnigle