July 23, 2015

To: The United States Copyright Office

Re: Orphan Works / The Next Great Copyright Act

From: Ronald J. Perry, Artist, Designer and Author

Dear Administrators of the US Copyright Office,

I am a professional Industrial Designer, commissioned Artist, and Author.

My career began upon graduation with a Bachelors of Fine Arts from Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester NY in 1977.

As a visual artist, I've created many pieces of original artwork for private collections. In addition, I have created original artwork and reproduced the art for civic fund-raising purposes.

As an Industrial Designer, I am named on 13 US Patents, 4 of which are for design. I taught design at the University level for Masters and Bachelor Degree candidates. I've also conducted instructional workshops in drawing and painting at the community level.

My interest in writing to you is to request and encourage your influence in maintaining clarity in the decisions regarding Orphan Works clauses included in what is known as "The Next Great Copyright Act", specifically with regard to ownership of rights to distribute any form of visual art, whether digitally, in print or by future technologies yet to be developed and commercialized.

In my work, I heavily rely on the protection that US Copyright law affords in producing original artwork and subsequent distribution of reproductions. As an individual artist, I survive strictly on the income the original artwork and reproductions create for me and my family.

It is my conviction that any party infringing on my right to be the sole producer of reproductions or distribution of my original artwork directly impacts my personal income. Like any other person

or company, I would be offended and likely take legal action on the infringing party if permission to reproduce or distribute was not granted directly.

My opinion is based on direct personal experience. To wit, I have been asked on several occasions for permission to license the rights to my artwork, with the potential for producing monetary income both for myself and the distributor. By contrast, I have denied similar requests because of unfavorable business terms resulting in potentially negative impacts on my income.

I'm concerned about the Orphan Works clauses in the proposed legislation implying loss of value upon publication of visual artwork. In fact, my work does not lose value upon publication. The opposite is true by raising my reputation as an artist and the correlating increase in the commercial value of my work.

Like every other visual artist, everything I create becomes part of inventory that I intend to market commercially. This is especially true in the digital marketplace. Considering today's technical ease of digital distribution, it is vitally important that publication of my work is at my sole discretion. It is equally important that any reproduction of the original artwork, whether digital or print, in no way allows free distribution by any party without specific permission from me, because my artwork has monetary value to me and distribution of which has an impact on my reputation as an artist.

I sincerely appreciate your consideration of my viewpoint as well as those of my colleagues who produce visual artwork in protecting our rights as individual artists producing commercially viable products.

Ronald J. Perry

651 Applegrove Circle

Webster, NY 14580

(585)269-9076