July 23, 2015

Dear US Copyright Office
Orphan works

I came across this new copyright law in a forum I follow with my Calligraphic Group. Although I am not a professional lettering artist, I have been studying and in the calligraphic arts for over 30 years as a hobbyist. I do attempt to create 'works of art' and show them in my non-profit guild's exhibit. On a rare occasion I'll get a request for a calligraphy commission that means something to that specific person. With that said, after creating my unique expression with my art, I would like to think that work would be linked to me, as the creator, forever.

Copyrights have been set in place so that the artist has a way of dealing with the criminals who using our skills and steal the end product, we so diligently worked on, right out from under our noses.

Everything I create becomes a part of my work, my art inventory and repertoire. I rely on what I have created in the past to potentially have an inventory to show to people in the future who may want to commission me. I do not believe that copyrigth law is an abstract legal issue, but the basis on which mine and many other lettering artists business rest.

If the copyright laws were to change… with registering every calligraphy project I create, which are hundreds a year just on a personal basis, where I sometimes share on my blog/internet/guild, etc. I would be penniless, as an artist/hobbyist and have no repercussions in dealing with the criminals who steal my work.

Sincerely,

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