

Sirs,

As a professional photographer of 25 years standing, I am extremely concerned at the untried legislation proposed in the U.S known as Orphan Works, which appears likely to be followed in the UK and Europe.

It strikes at the heart of the principal of ownership of work created by a practitioner of art or craft.

Digital photography, which my fellow creators and I have adopted either by choice or necessity, renders the electronic signature of ownership very delicate.

Unlike printed matter, signed artwork, ceramics etc, digital identity of ownership may be easily stripped out leaving the work 'unsigned' and without provenance.

Under the proposed changes any user will be able after superficial examination to commandeer the piece(s) if no immediate evidence is visible (or has been removed), and use it however, wherever and as often as required for their own profit without reference, recognition or payment to its creator.

This is absolutely and fundamentally wrong.

The US Orphan Works issue has been laid out without any trial or test, and should it be enacted there, should emphatically not be allowed to follow through here.

In fact there is an urgent need for statutory and punitive measures in the UK and Europe against those who seek to profit by using others' work without remuneration, rather than to open the entire field to them.

Sincerely,

Geoff Dann

Photographer