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News release

The artful need for understanding copyright

By Gerri Young, President, Blacksburg Regional Art Association

There is more to art and writing than just putting pictures and words on paper or canvas. Artists and writers, in order to protect their creative properties, must have a good understanding of copyright laws and how they may impact them.

On Oct. 25, 1:30-3 p.m., in the Blacksburg Library community room, James Creekmore, owner of the Creekmore Law Firm and The Artful Lawyer, A Fine Gallery Inc., in Blacksburg, will present "Copyright Law: Where It Stands Now and Where It's Going."



Creekmore, a well-known expert in copyright law and avid supporter of the arts, describes his presentation.

"Modern copyright law has not undergone any significant revision in 100 years," said Creekmore. "As a result, the law is not presently well-suited to deal with the newly emerging problems presented by orphan works (works whose creators are not readily known or identifiable) and mass digitization (libraries digitizing their collections).

"Recently proposed changes to the copyright laws address both issues, trying to strike a balance between protecting the rights of authors and creators of works and increasing public access to and fair use of the works.

"Through this program we will explain the issues presented by both orphan works and mass digitization, how existing copyright law deals with them (or doesn't), what courts have said when confronting the issues and what the Copyright Office's legislative proposals are designed to do to help solve the problems."

This presentation is free and open to the public as part of the 2015 annual meeting of the Blacksburg Regional Art Association. The presentation will be the first item on the agenda, followed by the annual report and election of officers for Blacksburg's only non-profit, volunteer art organization with 130 members. Refreshments will be available.

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