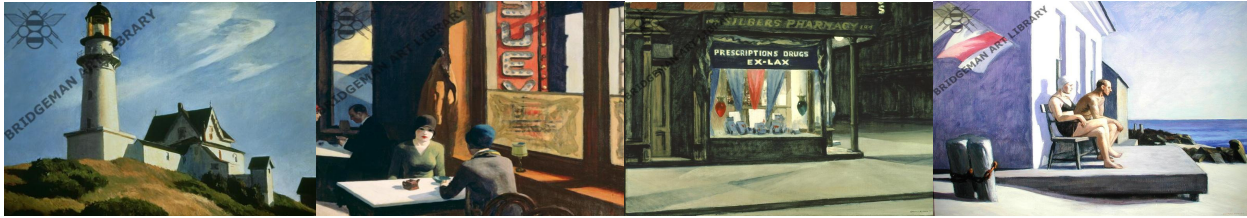


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MILE launches 'Orphan Works' images website at major international conference in Malta

- Speakers from major arts organisations including National Portrait Gallery, UK Intellectual Property Office, Alinari and Canadian Copyright Board
- MILE's potential solution to image copyright theft sparks controversy

Malta, 4th June 2008 – The MILE Project launched its Orphan Works database at a major conference during the international CEPIC congress 2008 in Malta. MILE – Metadata Image Library Exploitation – is a project funded by the EC which works towards harmonizing cataloguing standards for all image collections within the European Union. Coordinated by The Bridgeman Art Library, the world's leading resource for fine art images, MILE's project partners and speakers were welcomed by the British High Commission in Malta, His Excellency Nick Archer, and his wife Erica for a pre-conference drinks party at The Residence.

The conference, *Intellectual Property Rights Solutions?*, included speakers from leading governmental institutions, arts organizations and international commercial companies. An international audience of picture industry professionals and government representation attended, including MILE's EC Project Officer, Marc Röder. After presentations and discussions demonstrating the current legal situation regarding Orphan Works in Canada, the US, the UK, Italy and Poland, MILE launched its Orphan Works database. This is a website of images with unknown copyright information, the first database of its kind for images with incomplete copyright information; <http://orphanworks.ssl.co.uk>

This generated intense discussion on the viability and potential value of such a database. Chairman of The Bridgeman Art Library Harriet Bridgeman said, "Among growing movement towards legislation regarding Orphan Works within the UK and EC as a whole, we welcome the site as a test case for a centralized database of Orphan Work images, and in doing so establishing some precedent for best practice guidance for due diligence process." In October 2009, MILE will present the EC with a recommendation for legislative reform based on its findings.

Speakers included:

- Jonathan Band, Lawyer and US Legislative Advisor, policybandwidth
- Mario Bouchard, General Counsel, Canadian Copyright Board
- Harriet Bridgeman, Chairman, The Bridgeman Art Library
- Graham Howard, Design Director, System Simulation
- Hugh Jones, Copyright Counsel, The Publishers' Association
- Pandora Mather-Lees, Head of Sales, The Bridgeman Art Library
- Sam Minelli, Head of Research Applications Centre, Alinari 24 ORE
- Tom Morgan, Head of Rights & Reproductions, National Portrait Gallery
- Tim Padfield, Information Policy Consultant, The National Archives / LACA
- Edmund Quilty, Intellectual Property & Copyright Enforcement Director, UK Intellectual Property Office
- Ewelina Śliwińska, Legal Advisor, Wardyński & Partners

To register for future conferences and for more information, please contact the MILE administration team: lucy.geering@bridgemanart.co.uk / celestine.bramley@bridgemanart.co.uk

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