July 20, 2015
U.S. Copyright
Orphan Works

Dear U.S. Copyright Office,

In response to the "Orphan Works Act", it will affect the basis on how I do business as an illustrator and graphic designer. I've been active in the visual arts and design industry for over 20 years, earning a BFA from Sam Houston State, and kept up my skills with various other schools in the ever changing visual design industry. My skills and training have taken many years to refine, and with many hours poured into my work.

Copyright is a large part of my business, which help protect my livelihood and work from infringers. Copyrights add value to my illustrations, logos, and other work in the way of licensing and/or reselling my work. Copyrights allow me to certify my own work, deal with infringers taking money from my pockets.

Copyrights are the products I license, not just the physical art itself. Since my work is unique to my style and personality, publishing can increase my work's value and income. If my illustrations increases company A's success and profile, company B would be eager to capitalize on my work. My assets then becomes valuable and in demand. Copyrights also strengthens my ownership of my work when it comes to contracts regarding terms of usage and gives me the weight of law to pursue entities that use my work without permission. Not only it protects me, but also clients who license my work.

Everything I create becomes part of my business inventory, especially in this digital age. I should be able to promote my work online without fear of it becoming "orphaned" and used without my permission.

The "Orphan Works Act" will cheapen my work, weaken ownership, and threatened my livelihood. I cannot stand behind a new copyright law that will invite others to monetized my work without my knowledge or consent. The burden of proof of copyright should be placed on those who wish to make use of my work, not on me.

Sincerely,
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