July 20,2015

Dear Catherine Rowland
Department of US Copyright Office,

I understand you are considering changing the laws for "Orphan Works and Mass Digitization on Visual Works". I am a manager of both illustrators & photographers and have had a working business for 35 years. I sell my artists' services on assignment to companies, ad agencies & design firms all over the world. We count on charging for usage as a basis for our income. Sometimes our clients order an unlimited usage, sometimes a very specific usage. If they need a lot of usage, we charge more or if less usage is needed, we charge less. If the orphan works changes would be enacted, we would lose the right to charge for what we currently own and make our living from. Often, clients see what we have created previously & ask for pricing of the licensing of our artwork. Under the proposed act, anyone could see our work and make it useful to their business. This is not fair and our incomes will be severely limited. It seems to us that the US copyright laws have always favored a creator of work as the author & owner to be able to sell as much as the author is able to sell. To put our works out into the digital public as randomly accessible images seems to be like letting people steal. The fabric of our business and culture will be torn apart. As it is now, it's very easy for clients to track us down online to ask for pricing. We come across nefarious or uneducated clients often and 99% of them are reasonable and understand that they need to pay for usage. I rarely need to threaten a client with litigation because most understand about author's rights.

We also don't relish the idea of having to register every image we make because the burden of work will fall upon the creator. We make many images every week and this is very cumbersome. Please think about this practically. If you did several shoots each week and had to register the hundreds of images that were the heros—would you take the time to do this? It would mean hiring someone to only have this job & seems too beuraucratic. We need to be able to be small business people with some protections from the sharks of the world.

Thanks you for reading this & keeping our rights at the top of the list.
Best,

Freda Scott