July 21, 2015

U.S. Copyright
Orphan Works

Dear U.S. Copyright Office,

I am a woman who has dedicated her whole life to becoming a professional artist. I am still $13,000.00 in debt from attending La Roche College; a reputable and EXPENSIVE art school in Pennsylvania. I worked as a graphic designer for 7 years after college freelancing on the side. I joined The Pittsburgh Society of Illustrators two years ago. This group has given me the confidence and support which allowed me to quit my day job and pursue my dream of becoming a freelance artist, illustrator and designer. After 15 years of preparing for this transition I feel these copyright changes will destroy my efforts and my ability to support myself will be jeopardized.

Every drawing, illustration, or logo I create has many, many hours of research, preliminary sketches, emails, and skill that goes into each one. My hard work gives ME the right to decide how and where my art is used. These changes will diminish MY rights and allow others to make money off of MY "product". My art does NOT lose value after publication. An artist's best asset is their visual library and should not be infringed upon. Even if the majority of my income did not come from illustration I would not condone the use of my efforts and creation for somebody else's monetary gain. Infringing is stealing; it's that simple.

The Orphan Act is taking away our power, our rights and our money.