

Feb. 27, 2013

Maria Pallante
Register of Copyrights
US Copyright Office
101 Independence Ave. S.E.
Washington, D.D. 20559-6000
RE: Inquiry - Orphan Works

Dear Ms. Pallante,

My name is Valorie Wilson, I am a small business owner who makes my living creating artwork. One of the avenues that I normally utilize is the internet to contact new business prospects and to hopefully connect with people who appreciate my work, and will purchase it, from myself directly and from companies that use my artwork and designs to create their products.

I am so hesitant now to utilize the internet for sales and display, that I am no longer updating my web and blog sites for fear of creating "orphans" that could jeopardize contracts, both existing and future contracts with new companies. Since 2008 my business has been severely impeded by the threat of the "ORPHAN WORKS".

"Orphan Works" doesn't increase creativity – it just keeps people that actually can create IP from being able to fully benefit from their own creations. It keeps prospective buyers from buying when they can freely take what they want, knowing there will not be much (if any) monetary loss, and then ONLY if they are caught "using" "Orphans" and if I am in a position to pursue legal recourse.

The huge companies that want to utilize these works without compensating the rightful owners are just proof of the ever increasing value of IP as it gives passion and beauty to an otherwise technical and colorless cyber world. As far as other "creators" that require other IP creators to work to create, I can only say, they need to purchase that right.

IP creators are trying to make a living and the internet is finally giving a lot of small creators a way to finally do this – but only if creators can maintain ownership of their work and copyright protection for it.

My own portfolio is comprised of thousands of pieces of artwork – to force me to either lose it or pay to register it for someone else's convenience (especially when I don't really see a successful technology yet to alleviate the problem of identification) with a for profit business, would mean the end of my endeavors.

Thank you for your time,

Valorie Wilson/Artist

