

Dear Representatives,

My name is Tamas Udvardi I am an illustrator and painter living and working in the UK. Although I am at the very beginning of my freelance career I've been working as a texturing and storyboard artist in the special effects industry for 2 years and had the fortune of working in projects for internationally recognized names in my previous job, among them were National Geographic, Coca Cola, Universal Studios and the MTVA of Hungary.

Although I am not based in the USA I felt the need to contact you through this letter, regarding the issue of Orphan Works which has recently has recently re-appeared in the US after a few years of quiet. Your brave nation being the most powerful and influential on the planet, it has the tendency to set the major trends for the rest of the world. It is just the same in the world of art.

My knowledge of copyright and law in general is very minimal but I do understand as much as to form the opinion **that if the copyright laws change by realizing the Orphan Works suggestions, modern culture and possibly hundreds of thousands if not all artist's lives could be seriously disrupted and permanently scarred**, and most likely human culture itself would be negatively affected.

In today's digital world our copyrights are the basis of our living. Previously we never had to deal with large scale, global copying of our work, because the technology simply did not exist. But now, it is not only possible to make our work accessible to virtually everyone else on the planet, but it is absolutely mandatory if we want to make a living at making art.

Under the current copyright laws, the ability to share our work freely, without any realistic worry of blatantly infringing our work is the biggest blessing to artists in history. And I can't emphasize enough how devastating of an effect it would be not just to our means of living, but – in my humble opinion – to human culture if we had to spend a significant portion of our hard earned and mostly meager amount of income on registering our works at a privately owned copyright firm. And even after, with today's image editing technologies it would be **the simplest thing in the world to edit** it in a way and/or post is somewhere on the internet that it could be called legally (under the suggested laws) an orphaned work or even a completely original one, but in reality it would **be a complete infringement of the original piece and through mass digitization it could easily done by software that a high-school student could write. This translates to stealing money from artists.**

The other point I would like to make is **that creative works do not lose their value after publication. It is precisely when they become valuable to us, since it might become very important and personal to our audience and becomes part of the inventory of our business. Our copyrights are the products we license and it is not an abstract legal issue for us, but our basis of living.**

I myself lead a very humble life, at this point working in a field that I never had the intent to. I have only two things that make me truly happy, my girlfriend and my art career. If the copyright laws change in this way, I could lose them both.

Sincerely,

Tamas Udvardi