Hello,

First, I would like to state that its good to see copyright laws take a step forward into the modern era and broaden the fields of art that have yet to be covered.

However, as a an artist myself, I do not believe that an artist must be charged to have full properties on each piece that artist has created. Many artists state on their website, be it a personal site or a large gallery, of their choosing whether or not the art is free to use and/or if it can be redistributed without the artists.

Even if it is not stated on the artists work, it can be stated somewhere on the artists website(s). The person wanting to use the piece should be liable for contacting the artist and given minimum of three weeks for the artist to answer before it is considered an orphaned piece.

As for contacting artists, it is important to look into all sources such as Email or the website messaging system(s). Personal blogs on the artists website(s) may also give great resources on updated contacting information or why they may not be able to answer within a three week period (such as family issues, traveling, school, etc.).

In conclusion; simply put, most artists will not be able to afford copyrighting each and every piece of work. Many artists are happy enough with the current ways of how copyright works and will be unable to afford to copyright each and every individual piece of art work. We're in the modern world where, with a click of a button, we can see whether or not an art piece has been orphaned, all it takes it a bit of research.

Please don't charge the already starving artists.
Thank you.

Sincerely,
Courtney A. Schwark
Freelance Artist / Game Developer