July 20, 2015

U.S. Copyright
Orphan Works

Dear U.S. Copyright Office,

I am an artist and recently graduated with a BAA in Animation from Sheridan College, where I learned everything there is to know about animation and artistic visual development. Even now, I am still taking classes to expand my repertoire and push myself to be a better artist.

I have a blog, slowing building up a following and an audience while promoting my work. I am a freelancer, which means that I get a lot of contract-based work through people who have seen the work I do via that blog and want me to work for them. On top of being a freelancer, I produce art for my own personal short films.

There is a passion involved with my— all artists'— work and in the beginning, most of the work that we do is for ourselves, without pay. But that doesn't give others the right to use our art.

Because to us, that so-called 'free' art is an investment— in skill, in advertising (the internet was build for this), and in getting work. If we allowed others to use that investment, we are allowing others to monetize and profit from the hours we spent producing that art.

You would never ask a building contractor to build a high-rise for free because they don't own the land they're building on. We artists provide businesses with a service and that service should be protected. Copyrights are an important line of defense— they protect us from those who wish to take away what we create.

That is why I am against this bill.

Thank you,

Aki Yun