July 22, 2015

U.S. Copyright
Orphan Works

Dear U.S. Copyright Office,

I graduated Ball State University in 1989 with a BFA specializing in Graphic Design. I have been in this industry for 26 years. Last year I resigned from my full time position as a Design Manager at a paper tableware manufacturer of 16 years. In this position, I licensed art on a regular basis from freelance independent artists. I developed relationships with these artists and I HAVE HEARD TOO MUCH COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT and the impact it has on their lives. They then need to hire legal representation and go after a thief - a copyright infringer. It can be devastating when assets are tied up in legal issues while everyday costs continue to pile up. I'm horrified at what may be interpreted as copyright infringement encouragement by the government.

In my personal life, I took a risk leaving a secure, comfortable, well paying position with benefits to create my vision - the American Dream. I now own and run my company "My Favorite Designs DBA Brenda Manley Designs, LLC Art Licensing Agency and Surface Pattern Studio". I currently represent 8 artists/designers (myself included).

The copyright law as it stands now is the BASIS on which my business rests. Our copyrights are on the products we license. It is business critical that we remain able to determine who uses our art and what terms. Our work continues to gain value as it is licensed to one product category. Once the art gains momentum, we then capitalize on it and license it to multiple product categories.

If this law goes into effect, it will directly effect all of my personal monetary investments and time I have poured into my vision and dream of owning my own agency.

Our livelihood and future revenue rests on the current copyright protection law. Please do not pass it. Or if it is passed, how will we, the artists, be protected and supported when in legal pursuit of a copyright infringement?

Sincerely,

Brenda Manley

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