July 20th, 2015

U.S. Copyright
Orphan Works

Dear U.S. Copyright Office,

I am a Graphic Designer and Artist of 4 years, a graduate of the Art Institute of York, Pennsylvania where I earned a Bachelor Degree of Science in Graphic Design.

Copyright is necessary to the business world of art and design. Take the Apple logo for example. It represents a company that has been very successful for almost 40 years. If it were deemed an orphan and allowed to be used by anyone, the company's reputation would plummet. In a worst case scenario, this would mean the end of the company. This bill would not just affect art, but many other businesses and companies as well.

This can also be said for my own creations and art. For example, if someone went to my behance page to view my portfolio and liked my work, they could take a screenshot of it and use it as their own and for how they see fit. Doing this would not only hurt my own reputation, it would hurt my chances of landing a solid design job. Furthermore, it would assist someone who is undeserving of a job they would be hired to do and would lack the knowledge to do the job effectively or not at all. As a result, this would hurt the company that hired the undeserving person and it would be a huge waste of time.

Everything I create is a part of who I am. It's not only for my own enjoyment but for my own professional means and to show my clients and/or future employers to give them an idea of who I am and what I can achieve. I've spent years learning how to be an artist and graphic designer and to better myself further, not to mention the thousands of dollars my family spent to get me to where I am now. If anyone could access my work and use it for their own means, then all the years, all the money, all the passion I put into my work would be worth absolutely nothing.

If this bill passes, I might as well rip up my bachelor's degree because it would be worth less than what it's printed on. I hope you would not want this to happen to you, am I correct?

Sincerely,

Andrew Jameson Briggs