To whomever it may concern:

I'm writing because I am concerned about a recent copyright report and how it may effect artists and makers in the future.

Specifically I am concerned about the idea of orphan works. As I understand it, an orphan work is an image that has not been claimed as copyrighted property by its original creator. Images that are found to be 'orphan,' under suggested legislation can be claimed by anyone who, through a reasonable search, cannot find a rightful copyright holder.

This is worrisome to me as an animator independent of a larger studio. An animated work can sometimes take several months or even years to complete and during this time it is important for me to promote my work and hold public interest by releasing in-progress images and designs. It does not make sense for me to have every image that I own registered as my own copyright, since it is only a small portion of a larger work. However under Orphan works legislation I would essentially be forced to do so.

An example of the harm this may cause: as mentioned animation is a very long process. At the start of my project I release a design that will be featured in the piece, then continue going about my work. Someone stumbles upon my design, finds that it has not been officially copyrighted, and chooses to claim it as an orphaned work. Upon completion of my project, I then discover that my design has been used for another person's material, and I am in the wrong because my work now features designs that belong to someone else. Many other artists and creators online follow similar processes of 'in-progress' posting in order to captivate our audiences. Orphan works legislation could kill that essential marketing tool for us.

I understand that this example is of an abuse of the system but it's important to recognize the potential dangers to the common people before making any decisions related to this report. I'm hopeful that those involved in the writing of this document were thinking to protect students and researchers but there must be some middle ground not involving Orphan works that suits everyone.

Thank you for your patience in reading.
Best regards,

Amanda Hall