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TO: Catherine Rowland
Senior Advisor to the Register of Copyrights
U.S. Copyright Office
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We are Anna and Elena Balbusso, Italian twins, internationally recognized award winning professional illustrators team with a unique signature ANNA+ELENA=BALBUSSO. We are EU - based artists with many clients in the United States. Since 1998 our work has been published by major publishers and companies through out the world on various media types such as book jackets, magazines, newspapers, in house corporate, ads, children's books and classic novels. During the course of our career, we have created hundreds of illustrations. Some U.S. clients: The New Yorker magazine, The New York Times, The NYT Book Review, Scholastic, Random House, Simon and Schuster, Penguin Group, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Tor Books, Farrar Straus and Giroux, Reader's Digest. We have won many international recognition for our original work including three GOLD MEDALS of the Society of Illustrators in New York and THE JOSEPH MORGAN HENNINGER AWARD – BEST OF SHOW of the Society of Illustrators in Los Angeles. We are also professionals members of the SI in New York and of the SILA in Los Angeles.

We are writing you this letter to express our concerns about a proposed law that would replace all existing copyright; As "illustrators" freelance full time, without other job, our Copyrights are our assets. Copyright is the basis of our income. Copyright is the only way we have to protect our work, and to negotiate an appropriate fee for re-licensing. An important part of our income is derived through careful licensing of our existing work. It is a valuable resource for us, we can't give up on it. Please see the link to our collection on theispot as proof of that:
http://www.theispot.com/stock/aebalbusso

Removing Copyright protection of this collection and future work is essentially robbing us of vital assets of our business. We, as creators, are entitled to control of these images. The artwork is our business inventory, it has proven value to our through licensing and should not automatically be handed over to the public for free reuse by an act of congress. We have put our work on our website for promoting it, internet is our window, and never potential users do not have rights to our images.

In our case, the phrase "art is life" is perfect. Our images are our children. No work is an orphan. The protection of our images is of utmost importance to our livelihood. We can not delegate to others our work process. We don't make images produced in series but we create tailor-made artworks designed exclusively with extreme attention to detail often using time-consuming techniques. Our profession is a very difficult and exclusive job, without certainty. Talent is necessary but passion, study, commitment, tenacity, hard work, research, courage to change and evolve forever are fundamental. The resale of our past images is part of our business. To protect our freelance illustration job is essential to keep control of where the work appears and who uses it, and to keep the copyright notice and contact information associated with the work. Retain Copyright is crucial also to face old age. It is an investment for our retirement pension. We are very worried by the "potential users" rights, they can compromise your future life.

We thank you for reading our concerns and we ask you to recommend that visual art be excluded from any orphan works provisions Congress writes into the new copyright act.

Thank you for your understanding.

Yours sincerely,

Anna and Elena Balbusso