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July 22, 2015

U.S. Copyright
Orphan Works

Dear U.S. Copyright Office,

I am an artist and graphic designer, and have made my living at this for over 30 years. I went to Salem State College and studied art and graphic design. I am writing to let you know, that for artists like me, copyright is very important and is vital to making a living as an artist/designer.

I am asking you to create policy to protect visual authors and their exclusive rights, and support a sutainable environment for professional authorship. At the very least, please do not replace our existing copyright law with the revised legislation currently under consideration.

The protection of unique, original artwork is of utmost importance to my livelihood, as well as to countless other working artists. Copyright is the basis on which these countless artists do business. Infringement on my or their work is like stealing from us. Why should it be okay to have others make money on our personal hours and hours of sweat and tears creating our original art and designs? As a graphic designer, my logo designs' value are a large part due to copyright. If the intellectual property of a large corporation like Coca-Cola were removed, you better believe they would fight it.

All the artwork and designs I create become a part of my digital inventory, and this inventory is more valuable to artists than ever before in this digital age. No one else should be able to monetize an artist's work without their knowledge or consent. It is simply wrong.

respectfully yours,
Cathleen Cahill