Lisa Venditelli Karmel
Artist/Illustrator
July 20, 2015

Dear Copyright Office, Members of Congress, and all persons concerned in the preservation of US copyright:

I am an Artist/Illustrator working in the art field for 31 years. I have worked as an illustrator and fine artist. I am a graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design (BFA) and of Mills College (MFA). I have won awards for my fine art, been reviewed in publications such as the Boston Globe, Union Tribune, and Art in America. I have worked in illustration in the past and am pursuing a career in children's book illustration.

My art is my product. Licensing my works for publication is how I earn my livelihood. Other entities pay me for the right to publish what I produce. My works do not lose their value upon first publication. To the contrary, over time my works can be licensed in a variety of ways to add to my income. In this digital age, the copyright protection of my own work is more important than ever before.

Current copyright law fundamentally protects my ownership and control of my works. It is the base on which my ability to conduct business rests. Changing the law to endanger my ownership of my product directly affects my ability to support myself as an artist and illustrator. It would be like stealing my earning ability. The U.S. wouldn't take away the rights of Apple or any other corporation to own what they produce. The U.S. also wouldn't let someone else confiscate their ideas and products and sell them as their own. Please don't do it to artists. Art is a business and the work we create and license is our product. The concepts of Orphan Works and Mass Digitalization currently being considered for adoption into US law would endanger and inhibit my ability to continue making a living as an artist. I strongly object to the idea of someone else using my work for monetary gain without my consent or knowledge. It is vital to my business that I continue to be able to choose how and by whom my property is used.

Sincerely,
Lisa Venditelli Karmel