July 20, 2015

Maria Pallante
Register of Copyrights
U.S. Copyright Office
101 Independence Ave. S.E.
Washington, DC 20559-6000

To Ms. Pallante and the Copyright Office of the USA

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the copyright related problems that face the visual art community. I'm writing to you in regards to a proposed Orphaned Works proposal. As a young artist currently going to school for illustration I am just realizing what it means to be a modern artist. It takes skill, dedication and the undeniable fact that the content I create is mine and if anyone wants to use it they must have my permission. Posting work on the internet has become a necessary part of being a modern artist. Under the proposal, it would make having art online a perilous environment. As a modern artist having a website to post pictures of their art is an asset, it is the main way artists get jobs and commissions. Even as someone new to the professional art world I have been commissioned and made money because I've posted my art online for potential clients to see. Under the Orphaned works proposal, unless an artist goes through the expensive and lengthy process of getting everything they have registered, then the public and big businesses can take it, edit it and claim it as their own. Meanwhile under current copyright law anything an artist or anyone creates and posts is theirs the moment it is created. Having it be different wouldn’t be conducive to a sustainable career in the arts. Please think of the individual artists who are the bedrock of creative industry, not the companies who want to repr.

Thank you for this opportunity to talk,

Molly Kaye