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

Re: Orphan Works

Dear Ms. Pallante and Copyright Office Staff,

I have been supporting myself as an illustrator for more than 25 years. I graduated from The School of Visual Arts where I earned a BFA studying illustration. As a freelance artist I earn my living illustrating children's books and magazines articles, and licensing my art for products such as fabrics, home goods and paper products.

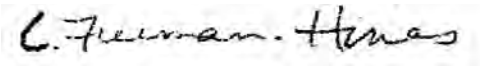
I am writing with regards to the proposed change in copyright law that would make it impossible for illustrators and other visual artists like myself to continue to make a living. The proposed law is designed to make it legally possible to use the work of artists like myself without paying the artist. It is not a “reform” of the law, but a cleverly disguised way for internet companies and other corporate interests to stock their databases with our images.

As a commercial artist the resale and ability to license my past images is an integral part of my business. Infringing on the copyright to my work is the same as stealing money from me. It is hard enough to make a living as a freelance artist without having to worry about losing income and potential earnings from “legal” infringers.

If the current copyright system were changed to where I had to retroactively and separately register each piece of art in my inventory (thousands of images), I would never be able to afford to keep ownership of my own work. It would also be so time consuming that I would not be able to conduct my day to day business.

Please help me and other artists like myself prevent others from profiting from our work without our knowledge or consent.

Thank you,



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