Catherine Rowland
Senior Advisor to the Register of Copyrights
U.S. Copyright Office
crowland@loc.gov

Dear Catherine Rowland,

I'm writing in regards to Orphans Work Copyright act.

First off, I'm not a professional artist. I do not have the specific answers to the questions you posed to the art community.

That said, I did attend college with the intention of becoming a professional artist, and I have tried for years to make that dream a reality. However with the cost of living vs. the difficulty of making it in any artistic field... it has in no way been easy. Still, it's what I love, so I keep trying.

That's why when I came upon information about this Orphaned Works thing I was horrified. This field is already ridiculously hard to break into. If you take away one of the few sources of income coming to artists, then why even Attempt to make a career of it? It's said that this act is an attempt to work towards the publics best interest. How is it in the publics best interest to make any artistic endeavor that much harder? To make it that much less desirable to pursue an artistic career because you *Know* you will never be financially sound?? That does not help the public, it simply means that there will be less sharing of artwork, less creation of artwork, and generally less of an artistic presence in the US at large.

As I said, I'm not a professional artist. I cannot speak to what challenges this poses to them. But as someone that once had that dream, I can only tell you that this act would cause people like me, and all the future 'starving artist' that would have made a go out of it, to avoid artistic careers altogether. And that is in No Way towards the publics greater good.

Thank you for your time,
R.Merry