Rebecca Pearson

rebeccap004@gmail.com

July 17, 2015

U.S. Copyright
Orphan Works

Dear U.S. Copyright Office,

I have sat on this letter for weeks, unsure how to put exactly into words that would help you understand the importance of keeping ownership of what I created and own originally, and keep its control in my hands.

I am not a natural artist born with skills, I have taken classes and college courses over the years, self taught. Within the last few years I have decided to take my work and to put it on Print on Demand sites such as Cafepress and Zazzle to sell my designs, artwork and photos.

Prior to this time, my ongoing interest in art made me aware of the theft of artwork that has been going on since the internet became wide spread. (We do know art theft was going on before this time).

Anything I draw, paint, digitize, store or create, should in fact, be without question mine. Any time I post an object to the internet, I am carefully considering where and how it is posted. I know there is “risk” others will see it, and believe it is okay to pilfer and reimagine for their own use.

This is where they are wrong. Everything I create, a photo of my family, a drawing of a bird, a webpage with my personal background pages, logos, etc., comes at a personal cost of my time, energy and creativity. Even the equipment and media I use comes at some personal cost to me. It does not lose value at publication, if anything it enhances the value by bringing it to a wider audience and making my pieces more desirable. This gives me the ability to sell and earn profit from my work.

When I create a design it becomes part of my portfolio, a personal design library that I can sell or keep should I decide. The copyrights on my art protect me from losing my value as a designer in the public! My basic rights to my images give me the right to keep earning and not lose earnings because of theft of my image, and it becoming reimagined by someone who has no right to it.

I have seen the damage and toll to earnings of theft of images on others and as a person struggling to make a presence in the world of design this theft could damage me and make it impossible to follow my dreams to create designs. I only need to know my government is protecting me (as it has been) and not helping others to my personal

business inventory and to my potential earnings. To me, this is not an legal issue up for discussion but is the basis the foundation for my business. My work, is my work, no matter when I created it, no matter where it is stored or published or shown.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Pearson