To the Copyright Office

Regarding ‘Orphan Works’ by Artists

My name is Patricia Achilles and I have created original illustrations for books, magazines, websites and private commissions for over 25 years. I am very concerned that changes to the Copyright Act are being considered, which will adversely affect my legal ownership of the work I have created, and my income from my copyrighted artwork. I urge you to support artists with the strongest protection from infringement on their work, and without placing financial and bureaucratic burdens upon us for protecting our creations.

To briefly explain my background, I attended Moore College of Art in Philadelphia and graduated in 1981 with a degree in Illustration. I have illustrated in house for the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf and Westminster Press in Philadelphia, have freelance clients all over the United States, and have illustrated eight children’s books. I have won two awards for my illustrations in Philadelphia Sketch Club exhibits.

For artists in business such as me, copyrights are of the utmost legal and financial importance. I put my skill and years of experience into creating each illustration, and I must retain full ownership of my work in order to gain income from licensing it. Copyright infringement of my artwork is essentially stealing my money.

My illustrations have value in every venue they appear, whether in a book, on apparel, on home furnishings, in a greeting card, etc. They do not lose value after the first publication; in fact, as their popularity grows, the images become even more valuable. As sole creator of an illustration, I am entitled to direct my art’s publication and derive its monetary benefits.

I strongly urge you to recognize individual artists’ inherent right to legal ownership and financial reward for each piece they create, to realize our business depends on retaining our rights not only for the first publication of the art, and to uphold robust punishment of any entity engaged in copyright infringement.

Sincerely,

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