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As someone who is studying for and aspiring towards a career in graphic communication, I find this potential change in copyright law to be very dangerous towards the work of myself and my colleagues.

I'm not as eloquent as many professionals on the matter, but to say it as clearly as possible, the Orphan Works Act is a massive threat to the work and revenue of creators. Whatever need the public has for early works, there are entire careers and industries that would suffer swiftly and greatly should they lose control of their own work. That the works in question are more abstract than, say, an automobile, doesn't make it any less painful when it's taken, altered, and exploited without so much as a cent in payment, merely a "reasonably diligent effort" to contact you that leaves itself open to vicious and immediate abuse. It's robbery, and it's disrespectful.