Pam Layton York
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U.S. Copyright
Orphan Works

Dear U.S. Copyright Office,

I have been an artist for all of my working career, over 30 years. The past three years, I have worked as a licensed artist. My art is licensed to companies for a specific duration of time and for a specific purpose. I retain all rights to my art.

I regularly copyright my art through your office to help protect myself in case of infringement. If someone copies my art, they are basically stealing what I have created for income and profiting from it without the talent, time and knowledge it took to create it. I also place my signature on the art I create and have also begun to list it as copyrighted in the file info when using Photoshop. I am protecting myself the best I know how.

Not only do I feel that copyrights are important from a monetary point of view but also in that since I control who licenses my work, I am protecting it from being used in a way I would not like it to be used.

I keep every piece of art I create. I basically am making an inventory of everything. When working on a collection, I might create a few parts of the design that I don't end up using on the final piece. But these same few pieces might work better on something in the future. I keep it in my inventory. All of it is important.
When one of my items is licensed for a product, this helps future licensing. If someone sees one of my images selling products, they would be more incline to want that same art, or other art of mine on their products as well.

My concerns for the new copyright laws would be that others could take and profit from my art, and basically put me out of business.

Thank you for your time,

Pam Layton York