Sunland, July 22, 2015

Dear Copyright Office,

I am a story artist and Illustrator, creating personal artwork/ illustrations for 30 plus years.
I received my art education in Europe, specialization fine art and animation.
Since 1997 I am working/living in the US, working for several animation studios and agencies.
I also make independent artwork, some of it for international book publishers.
The last few years I have extended my knowledge in digital art and I am hoping to start a freelance career making my own art products, including illustrations, 3D models and Logo's for non profit organizations.
Counting on a substantial part of my income to be covered by the licensing fees I hope to earn from the creation of my original works.

With regards to a proposed law that would replace all existing copyright law:

I would like to know what interest group/ party created and proposed this so called "copyright law reform". Like many of my artist colleagues I strongly believe that this business model is designed by special interest groups that want to use the artist's work without having to pay them any license fees.

This proposal is not "reform". It's a new copyright law model that favors groups that want to profit from artists work. If approved, unless the artist registers their product at their own cost, by default this new law will take away the artist's basic right to always own his/her intellectual property.
Why should the artists become subject to "orphan" work laws?
Why is unregistered work called "orphan" work in the first place? No work is an orphan. It all has been created by someone., even if a potential user doesn't know who it is!

For professional artists like me, property right is created through the pursuit of my craft, a lifetime of study, and my sustained expenditure of great effort, time and money in the production of my artistic creations.

Please, in stead of supporting this proposed "reform" law, support visual artists and proactively work with us to craft policy to protect visual authors and their exclusive rights.

Thank you for your time,

Onno De Jong.