It’s very important to me that the proposed so called “orphaned works” copyright legislation not become law. I am a part-time artist who has been selling paper doll illustrations online since 1997. I have never registered a copyright for any of my illustrations, but I’ve had very little problem with copyright infringement because of the way current law and relationship selling work. My small market of enthusiastic niche collectors lets me know if they see a possible infringement. I then write a letter or email to the offender reminding them that creative work is protected by copyright and asking them to desist. I know that a number of my fellow paper doll artists have had the experience.

As you can imagine, the market for paper dolls is small, and it’s important for artists to keep costs down. As a result, most of us do not register copyrights for our work. Imposing additional costs in the form of copyright fees or losing the opportunity to make sales of our work because of infringement will cause many of us to cease producing new paper dolls or offering our older designs. That might not seem like a major loss to you (obviously, you were never a little girl), but paper dolls have been a cherished art form, toy, and/or fashion illustration as long as printing has existed.

I’m also a fine artist and would, of course, be unhappy to have my fine art infringed upon as well, though I think that is much less likely, and indeed has never happened to the best of my knowledge. The paper doll art is different because it is made to be reproduced. Current law is all that protects paper doll and other easily reproduced art from exploitation. Please don’t remove that protection.