Us Copyright
Orphans Works

Dear copyright office,

I am a children's book illustrator author and teacher. I have over 50 published children's books with major publishers, two self-published books, and the creator of multiple images I sell as prints on the Internet. I have been working in the field for over 25 years.

I write this letter regarding the proposed "reform" that would replace all existing copyright law; a law designed to supply the general public with access to other people's copyrighted work with the intention of making it legally possible to use work without paying the artists.

These "reforms" as they are called, would allow the internet companies to stock their databases with artists images, by either forcing the artist to hand over the work as 'registered' works or having unregistered work treated as orphans and copyrighting them as "derivative works".

This newly proposed copyright act would press for a mass digitization of our intellectual property by corporate interests, an extended collective licensing with the intent of replacing voluntary business agreements between artists and their clients.

The argument is that once an artist's work is published it has virtually no further commercial value and should therefore be available for use by the general public! Artist's work does not lose value upon publication. If anything the published work becomes part of the artists business inventories, and these inventories are now even more valuable in the digital age. The current "reforms" in the newly proposed law would in effect waive the responsibility of a potential user to find the copyright owner and redefine an orphaned work as any work by any artist that anyone finds "sufficiently" hard to find. It's a convenient excuse for the potential user shirk the responsibility to properly search and void every rights holder's exclusive right to their own property.

This proposed law to replace existing copyright law should be dismissed as unconstitutional.

Sincerely,

Judith Moffatt