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U.S. Copyright
Orphan Works

Dear U.S. Copyright Office,

I am an Artist and Graphic Designer and have made this field my sole source of income for the past 24 years. I have a BFA from the University of The Arts in Philadelphia. In addition, over the past 20 years, I have invested huge amounts of time and money in ongoing training and courses related to my professional career in the field of Art Licensing.

Over the past 24 years, I have created a large body of art works that have become the inventory for my business.

Copyright is the basis on which I do business. Infringing on the work I create is the same as stealing from me.

Copyrights are the products that I license as well as derivative works in both my Graphic Design Business and my Licensing and or selling of my art.

For any business, a large part of a logo's design value is inherent in the copyright.
Apple, Starbucks, Wells Fargo or any other large large corporation in this country would put their foot down if the rights to their intellectual property were removed.

My art is licensed on products. Copyrights allow me to certify that it is my work, deal with people who steal it, cause them to stop profiting from it, and keep it off of websites and products that I view as inappropriate and damaging to my reputation.

In this digital age, inventory is more valuable to artists than ever before. EVERYTHING we create becomes part of our own business inventory.

Publishing my art works through licensing significantly increases its value. If one manufacturer is successful with one or many of my images, other manufacturers are eager to get on board and license the same artworks for other products. Publishing increases the value of my work, increases my income, and also increases the business of those who are selling products with my work on them.

I do not ever want someone else monetizing my work without my knowledge or consent.
If you were in my shoes, or the shoes of one of the hundreds of thousands of artists in this country whose sole source of making income would you want to see happen regarding "Orphan Works" legislation?

Sincerely,

Kristi Caterson