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July 20, 2015

U.S. Copyright
Orphan Works

Dear U.S. Copyright Office,

I am an Artist and Graphic Designer of 5 years, graduate of the Art Institute of York, Pennsylvania where I earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Graphic Design.

Copyright is integral to the business world of art and design. Take the IBM logo for instance. It represents a company that has been highly successful for over 100 years. If it were deemed an orphan and allowed to be used by anyone, the company's reputation would plummet. Worst case scenario, this would mean the end of the business. This bill would not just affect art, but other businesses as well.

The same can be said for my personal creations. Let's say someone went onto behance and viewed my portfolio. They liked my work and decided to screenshot it for their own use. This not only hurts my chances of getting a solid design job, but also helps an undeserving person get into a job they may lack the knowledge to do properly. This in turn hurts the company who wasted the time to hire the infringer.

Everything I create is an extension of myself that I show to clients or future employers to give them a look at who I really am and what I can accomplish. I've spent years honing my skills and gaining knowledge, not to mention the thousands of dollars it took to get me where I am. If anyone could get my work and use it for themselves, all the time, money, blood, sweat and tears I spent would be for nothing.

How would you feel if this happened to you?

Sincerely,

Kayla Showers

behance.net/kgshowers