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July 21st, 2015
To: US Copyright Office . . . Regarding Orphan Works

Dear kind people, I am writing to you with a sense of doom, over the potential possibility that under new legislation, my ability to collect monetary fees, for artworks that I truly create, will cease. Therefore, granting ANYONE who wishes to generate sales by stealing and reaping the benefits from my hard work, the ability to do so, without dire consequences . . . literally opening the door to the world, to benefit from my labors. And if this actually becomes law, why would the good people that have paid in the past feel the need to pay, when they are PROTECTED by law, allowing them to steal!!!

Can you SEE that this is going to be a HUGE mistake?

As artists, it is our job to create. Currently, by the simple act of creating, we own the rights to what we have faithfully produced, in ALL forms, whether it be traditional medium, or digital.

Artists are already fighting personal battles of copyright infringement . . . mostly from people stealing our work, from the internet. This new law would encourage what we so desperately are trying to protect. Our livelihood Not to mention, seeing our work used in inappropriate ways.

There needs to be a better way, a user-friendly "google -type" database, where artists can register their works, allowing others to search, and then find the owner/creator. Currently, if your name is not visible on the image, it's almost impossible. We also need to better educate the public/people, so they know what they can use for free, and what requires art licensing or purchasing.

Please listen to all the other artists that have also written. Truly, there is much at stake . . .

Sincerely,
joanie Bauer Hupp