July 23, 2015

U.S. Copyright
RE: Orphan Works

Dear U.S. Copyright Office,

I'm writing today to share my concern about the Orphan Works proposal.

I am an art licensing agent representing a select group of talented artists and their library of copyrighted works.

I graduated from San Diego State with a BA degree in Art with a minor in Business and have been successfully representing artists and licensing artwork since 2000. The licensing industry is a multi-billion dollar industry that relies heavily on licensed artwork. We license artwork on a wide variety of products which are developed and sold worldwide to specialty and mass market retailers. The licensing industry is one where we depend on copyrights to secure and protect our artist's rights to their artwork and the licensed products our licensees produce. Our artist's artwork is their livelihood and they need to be protected. Unfortunately artists have been taken advantage of for years…hence the term "starving artists" and I really hope the copyright laws aren't changed in a way to further exploit the creative people who bring such creative beauty to our world.

Licensed artwork plays a huge role in the development of products today and it is only through holding copyrights that licensed artists are protected. An artist can establish themselves as a successful "brand" by licensing their copyrighted artwork. The more an artist's artwork is seen on a variety of products in the marketplace, the more recognizable and desirable the artist's artwork becomes…and they should be rewarded for that. Being a licensed artist can become a nice means of support, but all is lost if the artist can't rely on copyrights to protect themselves and the artwork they produce. If the means by which artists are able to protect themselves and their artwork is taken away, it would be the same as stealing music from a musician. It would be like stealing money out of the artist's pockets as well as all those who rely on copyright laws to protect artists, their artwork and the licensed products produced. There are stringent laws in place to protect musicians from having their music copied and there should be the same types of laws in place to protect visual artists.

Please do not allow others to infringe on artists artwork and their livelihood.

Thanks for your consideration.

Karen Hacker

CEO
TSB & Co.
949-215-2840
www.TSBandCo.com