July 20, 2015

U.S. Copyright Office
Orphan Works

Dear US. Copyright Office:

I am a full-time fine artist and illustrator and have been selling my work for over 15 years. I have a Bachelor of Arts in Studio Art from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. I am a member of the Missouri Watercolor Society and have won awards at the national level.

Currently my main focus is children's illustration and I have recently started licensing my designs.

Copyright is the basis on which I do business. Infringing on my work is the same as stealing money out of my pocket.

The current emphasis on "branding" ones business involves copyright. Big corporations like Nike, Apple, and Coca-Cola would put their feet down if the rights to their intellectual property were removed.

My art is licensed on products. Copyrights allow me to certify it is my work, deal with people who steal it, get them to stop profiting from it, and keep it off of products and sites that I think are inappropriate and damage my reputation.

EVERYTHING I create becomes part of my business inventory. In the digital age inventory is more valuable to artists than ever before.

Publishing can significantly increase its value. If manufacturer A is successful with one or several of my images, manufacturer B is eager to get on board. Publishing increases its value and my income.

I in no way welcome someone else monetizing my work without my knowledge of consent. Would you?

Sincerely,

Kathy Jurek
www.kathyjurek.com