July 17, 2015

Copyright Office Comment/ Orphan Works

Dear Copyright Office:

My name is Janis Lillian Lapray. I am a self taught artist operating under the name Janis Lillian. I have been involved in licensing my artwork and product designs for over fifteen years now.

I also have a patented design (Patent No. 6431606) on an art-related product which I have licensed in the hobby and craft and toy industries, and which I have personally demonstrated on HGTV and showcased on the Rosie O'Donnell show.

The works that I create are really all that I have as my business inventory. By retaining the right to choose who benefits by publishing my art, I make my livelihood. Copyright is just as important to me as my patent. My portfolio is my paycheck, so to speak, and it is currently protected by Copyright laws. What I license is essentially my rights to my work, so my copyrights ARE MY PRODUCTS. Infringing on my work is the same as stealing my paycheck or the products off the shelf of my store.

Over the years I have had to hire an attorney several times to protect my patent rights from infringing parties and companies. My Patent has certified my ownership of my design. In the same way, Copyrights allow me to certify what is my artwork, deal with infringements and ensure that others stop profiting from my hard work. Copyrights also allow me to protect my works from being placed on sites or products that I think are inappropriate or damaging to my reputation.

Publishing my works has been a valuable networking tool for my business. When my artwork images are a success for one company, they grow in value and I have increased interest from multiple companies for those images on other types of products, i.e.; what looks great as stationery also looks fantastic as giftwrap and hey, it would also make a great fabric. Publishing is a means to expose my images to multiple industries, increase the value and keep me "employed" as a freelance artist.

I am not in support in any way of someone else monetizing my work without my knowledge of consent. Please do not change the Copyright laws in any way to allow that to happen.

Respectfully,

Janis Lillian Lapray