July 19, 2015

U.S. Copyright
Orphan Works

Dear U.S. Copyright Office,

I am currently a student in Graphic Design at my local community college. I pursue a career in illustration and animation, which means that my career aspirations revolve around the idea that I own the works I create.

I own everything I create, because I created it. I spent the hours of time to lay the groundwork for my illustrations, planning where every stroke will land. I took the time to draw the lines, and make sure they were exactly where they need to be. I was the one who finished these drawings; adding color, shading, composition, and the effects necessary to illustrate the topic I desired.

After years and years of my life being spent practicing these techniques and methods, I still don't get it right. I'm a long ways from being able to sell my works to anyone. However, I still communicate to people over the internet, be they friends or strangers. I still share my works on the internet for everyone to admire and critique. It helps me as an artist see what I need to practice and improve. It's a huge part of my craft to be able to expose my works to the public on such an accessible platform.

Allowing random individuals who I don't know take things that my peers, or myself have created, and allowing them to generate profits with them, is wrong.

There is no two ways about it. It does not matter if my or someone else's work does not meet some arbitrary quality rating, making money using someone's artistic work without the original creator's permission and consent is stealing.

Sincerely,

Zack Holmes