Dear US Copyright Office:

I am a professional freelance illustrator living and working in Pennsylvania. I am writing this letter to state how the 2015 Orphan Works and Mass Digitization Report currently being considered by Congress would have a negative impact on my business and the business of artists worldwide.

As a fulltime-freelance illustrator for over 25 years, I rely on the internet for advertising and general self promotion. I work primarily for magazines, newspapers and book publishers. I have also created images for large and small advertising campaigns, logos and identity materials for small businesses, and illustrations for digital applications.

The current standard of establishing ownership of my images simply by publishing them under my name allows a cohesion that is easily deciphered. My clients understand the terms of use through a clear and concise statement on my contract.
Digitization has allowed for illustrator's images to be disseminated worldwide on an unprecedented scale. This had also enabled unauthorized use of images originally created and owned by artists who are easily found through the same sources showing the work. Currently, in a case of copyright infringement, the burden of proof of ownership is on the infringer. The new proposed legislation would transfer the burden of proof to the creator.

Again, the vast majority of published images are easily sourced via the same digital means through which they are disseminated. This is also true of unpublished imagery.

The proposed legislation creates difficulty not only for me the creator, but for the clients that commission my work. They are paying for exclusive rights that I could potentially no longer guarantee.

The body of work that I have created over the past 25 years constitutes the net value of my business. It is a near impossibility in terms of time and expense to effectively collect and register the thousands of images in my archives and those of my clients.
Please reconsider how the 2015 Orphan Works and Mass Digitization Report could have ruinous effects on the businesses and general well being of illustrators, designers, and anyone who makes their living creating imagery.

Best regards,

Tim Bower

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