Sarah Frederking
fresh, colorful collections

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Dear Copyright Office,

I am writing to ask you to please stand against the Orphan Works Act, as that will greatly defeat my ability to earn a living as a licensed artist.
II have been in business as a designer/illustrator for more than 30 years and it has been harder and harder to protect the rights to my work and to keep the profits I can make from my work in my control. Many of us have had to rely on password protected sites to keep others from copying our work for their own monetary gain, adn that in itself makes it harder and harder to market to potential customers. but we have to be so very careful that our work is protected from people with no authorization to do so, from using our artwork for their monetary gain.

II spend over $5000 annually to promote and showcase my work to qualified buyers or Licensors at the one trade show that connects me with my potential clients, and with that I have to trust that when I give someone a low resolution image of my work to be considered for use on thier products that they are not going to use it to blatantly copy my images and claim it as their own. The only protection I have to showcase my work in any public forum is that I know my copyright protects me from such stealing of my art. It also allows me to license my work fairly to a number of different manufactures with the gurantee that no other manufacturer of the same product is using my image on a similar product, as that would create a major conflict of interest to the people I am working with. If I cannot assure these customers that they have a proprietary right to use my image on their products I might as well close my business doors for good.

Copyright infringments are rampant already, and that allows for the utmost disrespect of the education I have behind me, and the 30 plus years of business success I have built on to get to this point in my career. If the Orpan Works Act passes, it will be a short amount of time before my business loses all it's value.

Please do not put me and the other hard working artists out of business with the passage of this act.

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